A Different Set of Gallos

The Sicilian Gallo brothers from Palazzo Adriano reveal the scope of Cosa Nostra's national connections and the treachery of its evolving governing bodies.

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I take special interest in lesser-known Cosa Nostra members. These men are otherwise footnotes in larger figures' stories but further investigation reveals new information about the mafia and its history when we zoom in on the details surrounding these individuals' lives.

Sometimes a "footnote" member shows up in connection with a significant person or event in Cosa Nostra history but has no signs of sustained importance in the organization. They disappear into dormancy for periods, only to reappear in connection with another person or event, returning to the shadows afterward. When we manage to learn more about these individuals, we discover they have a story worthy of being told, too, and this story tells us as much about Cosa Nostra as it does about the individual.

This is particularly true for Bonanno Family member Ciro Gallo, who was directly connected to two noteworthy mafia murders on opposite coasts during the 1930s and 1940s. Research reveals there is far more to his background in Cosa Nostra and it includes other significant names worth exploring in-depth. This article is a winding analysis exploring the evolution of American Cosa Nostra with Ciro Gallo coming and going, just as he did in life.

From Sicily to New York via California

Born in 1898, Ciro Gallo came from the small Palermo village of Palazzo Adriano and entered the United States through California via Tijuana in 1927. By the early 1930s he moved to Bushwick, Brooklyn, a neighborhood dominated by the Bonanno Family along with neighboring Williamsburg. Gallo moved residences during this decade but remained in Bushwick, where he was a close neighbor of future Bonanno *capodecina* Frank Tartamella, nephew of Family *consigliere* Giovanni "John" Tartamella.

Gallo was a Bonanno member in New York.

Ciro Gallo married Caterina Argento, born in Alcamo, Trapani, a *comune* immediately neighboring Castellammare del Golfo. Castellammare was the hometown of John Tartamella along with much of the Bonanno leadership, including Joe Bonanno himself, but the Family also included early leaders and a wealth of members from neighboring Trapani towns in addition to other outposts in various western Sicilian strongholds located in Palermo and Agrigento province. The Bonanno Family unsurprisingly had historic members from Alcamo and genealogical records show occasional interrelation between mafiosi from the two towns. Today the Sicilian Families in Castellammare and Alcamo belong to the same *mandamento* (mafia district) despite an on-and-off rivalry within Cosa Nostra that occasionally results in one gaining power over the other.

Gallo and Argento's 1933 marriage took place in Marlboro, a tiny Upstate New York town on the Hudson River later noted for a small Sicilian colony from Agrigento that maintained strong connections to the New Jersey DeCavalcante Family. This colony included immigrants from Ribera and Alessandria della Rocca, both villages whose *compaesani* (townsmen) network factored heavily into the DeCavalcante Family's membership in New York and New Jersey. The western Agrigento towns that produced DeCavalcante members are relatively close to Ciro Gallo's hometown of Palazzo Adriano and numerous *comuni* in this interprovincial region led immigrants to the same areas of the United States, many of which have known mafia links even in "out of the way" locations.

Gallo married in the small town of Marlboro, New York.

The DeCavalcante Family eventually had several inducted members who maintained residences in remote Marlboro and boss Sam Rizzo DeCavalcante referenced multiple Marlboro-based members on FBI recordings during the 1960s. By then his Family had gambling operations in the area and when future *capodecina* Anthony Rotondo cooperated decades later he testified that member-owned properties in this area could be utilized to dispose of mafia murder victims though it's unclear if this ever took place. Following the mass-incarceration and defection of high-ranking DeCavalcante members like Rotondo in the early 2000s, the Family would be guided by underboss Joseph Miranda, a one-time resident of Marlboro who maintained a legitimate business in New York City, where Miranda also spent time living, though Miranda's heritage came at least partially from Partinico, near Alcamo, rather than the Palermo-Agrigento border. Others members with property in Marlboro were John LaMela and Vincenzo LaBarbara, both with heritage in Alessandria della Rocca and corresponding ties to Tampa, Florida.

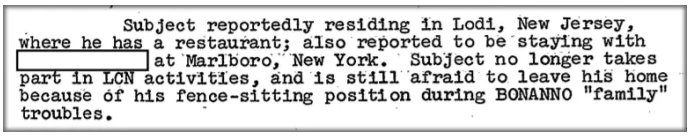
Longtime Bonanno leader Angelo Caruso also spent time in Marlboro, NY. Caruso was Sicilian but an outlier in the Bonanno Family in that he came from Enna province rather than northwest Sicily. Angelo Caruso was familiar with the DeCavalcantes, noted for being one of former *capodecina* Frank Rizzo DeCavalcante's closest friends. For this reason it was Caruso who Frank's son Sam sought out when the "Banana War" crisis broke out in late 1964. Caruso was on the Family's ruling panel at the time and once temporarily served as underboss and acting boss in the early 1930s, being described in Joe Bonanno's autobiography as the representative of a non-Castellammarese faction in their Trapani-centric Family after the murder of Salvatore Maranzano in 1931.

NY T-1 advised on June 12, 1962, that ANGELO CARUSO
was the "underboss" for SALVATORE MARANZANO in 1931.

Caruso was an early Bonanno underboss and served as interim boss.

The Rizzo DeCavalcantes were like Caruso and Ciro Gallo in that they were not part of the dominant *compaesani* group within their mafia Family, Frank and Sam tracing their heritage to Monreale and Palermo *citta* rather than Agrigento. The Bonanno Family had its own members from Agrigento and Angelo Caruso intermarried with the captain of one of these groups in New Jersey, perhaps providing a connection to the DeCavalcante-linked Agrigento colony in Marlboro when he visited. There were other, closer mafia connections that may have brought Caruso and Gallo to the Marlboro area, too.

Even marriage in an innocuous Upstate New York hideaway was not without significance in the Cosa Nostra network, where social plans and vacations were guided by the mafia subculture, just as crime and other subversive activity followed the same currents. Whether this played a direct role in Ciro Gallo choosing Marlboro as his choice of venue for marriage will be discussed more later in this article but like other early American mafiosi from Sicily his known traveling patterns are almost exclusively tied to mafia colonies.


Subject reportedly residing in Lodi, New Jersey, where he has a restaurant; also reported to be staying with [redacted] at Marlboro, New York. Subject no longer takes part in LCN activities, and is still afraid to leave his home because of his fence-sitting position during BONANNO "family" troubles.

Caruso hid out with an unidentified individual in Marlboro in the 1960s.

Stepping back to Ciro Gallo's initial arrival in the United States via Tijuana, the decision to enter the country through California was not random. Gallo's brother Geraldo Gallo (b. 1896), known as "Joe" for his middle name Giuseppe, was living in Los Angeles and there was a Cosa Nostra Family based in Southern California with a faction in San Diego. San Diego-based members like Frank Bompensiero would regularly visit Tijuana and a group of deported members took up residence there for a time in the 1940s, associating closely with the Southern California membership. One of these deportees was Frank Coppola from Partinico, an affiliate of numerous American Families, including both of the Missouri groups, and Bompensiero noted that St. Louis Family leaders were among those who visited Coppola in Tijuana. Coincidentally, St. Louis was one of the few organizations with early members from the Gallos' hometown of Palazzo Adriano although that did not connect directly to Coppola's presence in Tijuana.

Hidden behind more infamous New York figures with the same name, Ciro's brother Joe Gallo was identified by later Bay Area informants as a Cosa Nostra member himself, belonging to the San Jose Family. There is no evidence of Joe Gallo's involvement with the Los Angeles Family during his residence there in the 1920s, though his brother Ciro's decision to enter the country through Southern California was no doubt connected to Joe's presence in the state. Like Ciro, Joe Gallo's known movements are linked to areas with a mafia presence and his age at the time he lived in Los Angeles would suggest he was already associated with Cosa Nostra if not a fully inducted member.

Palazzo Adriano continues to host Cosa Nostra activity.

The Gallo brothers' hometown of Palazzo Adriano has its own Cosa Nostra Family, acknowledged by Italian investigators as recently as 2014. A handful of members were arrested along with the Family boss, who shared his surname with the sitting mayor. This investigaton revealed a leading member of the local Family who engaged in extortion was a municipal employee in Corleone, which sits in the same general area of Palermo province.

Palazzo Adriano has long been in the shadow of nearby Corleone and other inland Palermo villages, though Palazzo Adriano is itself a distinct Family in the Corleone *mandamento*, a regional mafia district comprised of individual village-based Families that report to a more dominant representative in the area, in this case Corleone. All of the Families in a *mandamento* retain their autonomy as individual organizations while falling under the influence of the *capomandamento*, a title separate from Family *rappresentante*. Though the Palazzo Adriano organization is politically and geographically intertwined with Corleone, few links can be found between early Palazzese mafiosi in the United States and the influential Corleone network that informed the development of American Cosa Nostra groups.

Palazzo Adriano belongs to the Corleone *mandamento*.

Palazzo Adriano was formed by *Arbëreshë* settlers, ethnic Albanians who adapted to Sicilian culture but nonetheless preserved a unique identity into relative modernity. One of the earliest known bosses of the New York Bonanno Family, Nicolo Schiro, was born in nearby Roccamena and had *Arbëreshë* roots in his bloodline. This was not a barrier to mafia membership

nor did it prevent a member from reaching the highest levels of leadership, as evidenced by Schiro. Nicolo Schiro's grandfather was also the mayor of Roccamena in the 1840s and the *comune*'s Cosa Nostra Family belongs to the Corleone *mandamento* alongside Palazzo Adriano.

Nicolo Schiro's heritage was the result of cross-pollination between Roccamena and Camporeale, the latter part of Trapani province at the time of Schiro's birth and Schiro himself lived in Camporeale prior to entering the United States. He was also an alleged relative of an even earlier Bonanno boss, the Camporealese Paolo Orlando. It is unknown if Ciro Gallo shared Nicolo Schiro's Albanian blood, though there is a certain probability given his birth in the heavily *Arbëreshë* colony of Palazzo Adriano. If nothing else the two men shared affiliation in the Bonanno Family.

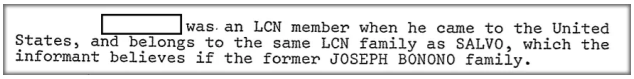
Roccamena-born Schiro was an early Bonanno boss.

Joe Gallo's residence in Los Angeles when brother Ciro arrived in 1927 plays into possible *Arbëreshë* roots as well. Early members of the Los Angeles Family came to the United States from Piana dei Greci, today known as Piana degli Albanesi for its history as a core Albanian settlement, and the village's mafia transplants in California had *Arbëreshë* bloodlines. The Gallo brothers' heritage in Palazzo Adriano made Los Angeles a natural fit if indeed they were tapped into the local Cosa Nostra environment dominated by natives of Piana dei Greci. The two villages don't directly border one another, Corleone and other *comuni* resting between them, but Sicilian *Arbëreshë* colonies were closely connected through shared Albanian heritage and it wasn't uncommon for Italo-Albanians in Sicily to have relatives and relationships to other *Arbëreshë* towns even if the two locations did not directly border one another.

Ciro Gallo could have been recognized as a Sicilian mafia member prior to entering the United States. Formal transfers from Sicilian Families to United States groups were common during this era, Gambino member Nicola Gentile's memoirs showing the ease and fluidity of these shifting

arrangements. Though transfers were fluid, they were still highly formal. The leadership of each Family had to approve the process and a letter was exchanged to officially confirm the change in affiliation. When Gentile transferred to the San Francisco group in the early 1920s he described how the Family *consiglio* was involved, a reference to a governing council distinct from the administration. Numerous sources in both the United States and Sicily have identified these formal *consigli* within their respective organizations.

A member did not have to transfer after moving to a new area in every case, though establishing permanent residence in the area of a local Family generally facilitated the process. Later sources stated that transfers between Sicily and the United States became much less common, some Families discouraging international transfers though they still occurred on occasion in Families with significant ties to Sicilian mafiosi. Localized relationships in the United States led to more organic recruitment processes based on proximity rather than Sicilian credentials and Cosa Nostra in many locations became pan-Italian.

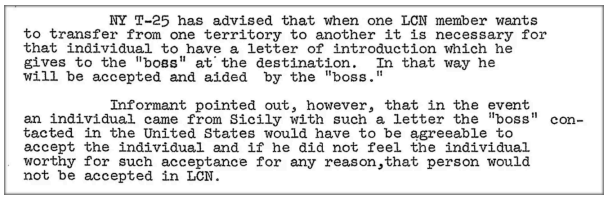

[redacted] was an LCN member when he came to the United States, and belongs to the same LCN family as SALVO, which the informant believes if the former JOSEPH BONONO family.

Sicilians continued to transfer to US Families in some instances.

There are examples of the heavily Sicilian DeCavalcante and Bonanno Families continuing this international transfer process even into more modern years. A recent investigation showed that the Gambino Family, which today is run by a faction with Sicilian mafia roots, also arranged the transfer of a Sicilian member from Montelepre within the last ten years. The member was required to produce a letter from his Sicilian boss just as members like Nicola Gentile were required to do a century earlier. Young *pentito* Calogero Ganci, son of the Noce Family boss in Palermo, cooperated in the 1990s and stated that he too was aware of transfer letters being used to confirm the entry of Sicilian mafiosi into American Families during the 1980s or '90s.

Before the 1930s this transfer process was incredibly commonplace, Nicola Gentile describing his smooth transfer between Families in the United States and Sicily, then back again. Gentile followed the required protocol in each instance. During a return from Sicily to New York City in the early 1920s, Nicola Gentile was expected to transfer to the future Gambino Family from Porto Empedocle (Gentile was from Siculiana) but to avoid being assigned a murder contract from *rappresentante* Salvatore D'Aquila he made arrangements with his friend Nicolo Schiro to transfer into the future

Bonanno Family for a brief period. Gentile transferred to San Francisco a short time later and again his time with that Family was short-term.



NY T-25 has advised that when one LCN member wants to transfer from one territory to another it is necessary for that individual to have a letter of introduction which he gives to the "boss" at the destination. In that way he will be accepted and aided by the "boss."

Informant pointed out, however, that in the event an individual came from Sicily with such a letter the "boss" contacted in the United States would have to be agreeable to accept the individual and if he did not feel the individual worthy for such acceptance for any reason,that person would not be accepted in LCN.

Many sources describe an identical process for transferring membership.

My suspicion that Ciro's membership predated his arrival to the United States comes from his age upon entering the country and the quickness with which he established himself in important mafia circles despite having moved across the country from California to New York as a fresh immigrant from Sicily. Though inducting middle-aged and even elderly recruits has become commonplace in American organizations during recent decades, the early Sicilian and American mafia actively recruited teenagers and young men. San Jose member and FBI informant Frank Sorce, heritage in Caltanissetta's Mussomeli *comune*, reported a rule that American groups could induct members who were seventeen-years-old, while the Sicilian branch would induct members as young as thirteen.

Enrico "Harry" Riccobene of Philadelphia, heritage in Castrogiovanni (today Enna) where he had a mafia lineage, was inducted at age sixteen, just shy of his seventeenth birthday — Harry Riccobene's induction took place in 1927, the same year Ciro Gallo entered the country. *Pentito* Tommaso Buscetta from the Porta Nuova district of Palermo *citta*, too, was inducted into Cosa Nostra as a teenager in the 1940s and other *pentiti* have given similar descriptions of the Sicilian mafia favoring the induction of younger men. Young teenagers may have been at the extreme end of the induction spectrum but it was apparently possible. At age twenty-nine, Ciro Gallo had been eligible for membership in Sicily for sixteen years according to the guidelines described by Frank Sorce and events to come show Gallo was accepted among national mafia leaders several years after arriving to the United States without having spent a significant amount of time in their midst. It cannot be confirmed if Gallo was already a member of Cosa Nostra in Sicily when he arrived but he was evidently well-connected.

The Canzoneris & Palazzo Adriano

The majority of early Bonanno members were the product of Trapanese mafia clans who maintained their tradition in the original Sicilian style. Compared to their peer organizations in New York City, the Bonannos were among the

most reluctant groups to recruit through purely local relationships during earlier stages of the American mafia's evolution, the late 1940s and 1950s serving as the first period where the Bonannos brought in non-Sicilian and otherwise Americanized members in significant numbers. Even then, they stayed close to their clan roots when it came to Family administration.

Ciro Gallo's 1930 residence in Bushwick and marriage to an Alcamese woman could have paved the way for his transfer or induction into the Bonanno Family, and it was certainly no detriment to this endeavor, but deeper investigation shows his relationship to the Bonanno Family was not necessarily limited to these two factors alone. Though Gallo's hometown of Palazzo Adriano in Palermo province is not common in Bonanno Family history, Bonanno member Tony Canzoneri's heritage was from there as well.

Canzoneri was a world-class boxing champion and Bonanno member.

Tony Canzoneri was only recently confirmed as a Bonanno member through FBI files and a reference made in one of Bill Bonanno's books, though Bill's father Joe Bonanno did describe a relationship with the Canzoneris earlier in his own autobiography. Prior to this, Canzoneri was well-known as one of the most successful professional boxers of his era, having held world titles five separate times and securing a well-earned place in the Boxing Hall of Fame. Bill Bonanno not only identified Canzoneri as a made member of the same mafia organization Bill himself belonged to, but also a *capodecina* under Joe Bonanno's leadership. Bill Bonanno's book included a photo of his father Joe standing proudly, arm-in-arm with Tony Canzoneri. Another Bonanno-produced memoir even includes a photo of Bill play-fighting with Canzoneri when the former was still a child.

Bill Bonanno's claim initially puzzled some readers who questioned how or why such a successful celebrity fighter would participate in Cosa Nostra. However, a significant number of amateur and professional boxers became mafia members and associates, including well-known names like Vincent "Chin" Gigante. Louis Salica, a second-generation Palermitano member of the Gambino Family, was another boxing champion like Canzoneri before his

entry into the mafia. Some of these boxers-turned-mafiosi achieved little to no success in boxing, but Tony Canzoneri was not fundamentally different from them in approach — he was just really good at boxing and they weren't. The sheer number of Cosa Nostra figures involved in boxing during their formative years makes it a matter of probability that some of them would be noteworthy.

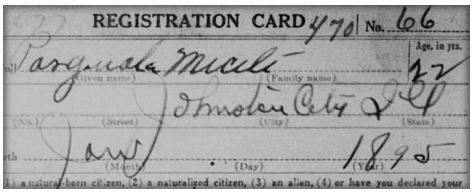
Canzoneri (L) and Bill Bonanno (R) were no strangers.

Born in Louisiana in 1908, Tony Canzoneri and his family remained in the American South through at least 1913 where it appears they lived in New Orleans in addition to smaller settlements in the southern part of the state. In addition to New Orleans there were Sicilians distributed throughout numerous colonies in the state of Lousiana, these immigrants following *compaesani* and relatives in addition to finding work in new locations as economic opportunities shifted. New Orleans was the primary port for Italian immigrants until 1898, at which time the entry point for most Sicilians shifted to New York's Ellis Island. This change was reflected in the politics of Cosa Nostra, the epicenter of the American mafia shifting to New York City and New Orleans becoming less significant in the organization's national politics. The Canzoneris did not immediately move to New York from Louisiana, however.

By 1917 the Canzoneris were living in Johnston City, Illinois, in the far southern part of the state. Chicago was a significant distance away but also had a colony of immigrants from the Canzoneris' hometown of Palazzo Adriano and several Chicago mafia figures would trace their heritage there. They factor into this story, though it will be later. Johnston City, where the Canzoneris lived, was in Williamson County closer to St. Louis, MO, which had its own immigrants from Palazzo Adriano involved with mafia activity. Future St. Louis *rappresentante* Pasquale Miceli was from Burgio in Agrigento province, a *comune* near Palazzo Adriano, and was himself residing in Johnston City circa 1917-1918 prior to living in Chicago and eventually St. Louis where in addition to overseeing the local Family he ran a funeral parlor and inducted his son Anthony into the group. Tony's father Giorgio Canzoneri, named in one

account as “Don Giorgio”, was a butcher by trade but coal mining attracted many Sicilians to Johnston City and Sicilian colonies were peppered throughout these small towns in Southern Illinois.

Another Burgitano like Miceli, Andrea Triolo, lived in Johnston City as evidenced by his 1907 birth and later moved to the Chicago area, being arrested decades later as a bootlegging associate of his presumed relative Filippo “Phil” Bacino, a Chicago member in Calumet City who came from Ribera and traced part of his heritage to Burgio through the Triolo name; Bacino was also heavily linked to his *compaesani* in the DeCavalcante Family. Outside of the Burgio-Palazzo nexus, future Rockford boss Antonio Musso from Partinico was identified as living in Johnston City in 1918, the same year the Canzoneris and Miceli are confirmed to have been there, and was arrested the following year in St. Louis on burglarly and concealed weapons charges. Though Partinico is in Palermo province it was heavily linked to the formative Trapanese network in the United States, producing early Bonanno members, and Rockford itself had a significant population from Agrigento villages near Burgio and Palazzo Adriano across the provincial border, these towns naturally intersecting with the Rockford Family membership.


REGISTRATION CARD 4/70 No. 66

Age, in yrs.

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Miceli, like the Canzoneris, spent time in Johnston City.

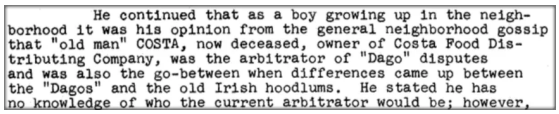
Illinois had a mafia presence throughout much of the state. In addition to Chicago and Rockford, there were other distinct, formally-recognized Illinois Families in Chicago Heights, Springfield, and according to Los Angeles member informant Frank Bompensiero there was even an adjacent group in Gary, Indiana, with the Missouri Families in Kansas City and St. Louis falling into similar mafia networks. Some of these organizations had a presence in rural areas near their central jurisdiction though it has yet to be confirmed what, if any, Cosa Nostra presence existed in Williamson County beyond the temporary residents mentioned here. If this was a formal mafia outpost, it was presumably affiliated with the St. Louis Family later headed by Pasquale Miceli.

An earlier St. Louis mafia leader was Domenico Giambrone (b. 1876), a native of Palazzo Adriano who arrived in 1903 to his father in Birmingham, where there was a short-lived Alabama Family formed around a western Sicilian colony from the interprovincial area between Palermo, Agrigento, and

Trapani. Giambrone's stay in Birmingham was temporary, as he soon settled in St. Louis, a location that may have had a Family long before the turn of the century. In 1917, Domenico Giambrone and an associate were questioned after a man was found murdered with a hatchet in his skull at a saloon owned by Giambrone. Giambrone survived a murder attempt himself in 1922 and was suspected of a murder that same year along with three of his brothers. One of these brothers, Paolo, was shot in 1923 during an attempt on his life and later succumbed to his wounds.

Though we lack inside sources who could clarify the formalities at play, factional underworld violence consumed the St. Louis Sicilian colony throughout the 1920s, many of these warring mafiosi coming from Agrigento but also Palermo province, including Tony Musso's hometown of Partinico. A number of mafiosi were killed but some survivors show continuity with the later St. Louis Family while others left Missouri, establishing themselves with Cosa Nostra in other locations such as Vincenzo "Jimmy" Infusino from Licata who eventually transferred to San Francisco where he was identified by member informants as an honorary *capodecina* in the local Family. Infusino was also arrested on a 1930 bootlegging charge with former Johnston City resident Tony Musso, by then established as the Rockford boss.

Mariano Costa (b. 1879), who remained in St. Louis after the turbulent '20s, was identified by FBI sources as an elder "arbitrator" of local mafia disputes into the 1950s during the Pasquale Miceli era and he was in fact born in Palazzo Adriano, like Domenico Giambrone. One St. Louis FBI informant even stated that the Family once had a "council table" who met at Miceli's funeral parlor, an indication that St. Louis had a formal *consiglio*. Though Costa's name was not mentioned by the source, he presumably maintained a seat on the council if indeed he was a chief "arbitrator". His age and hometown suggest he was also quite familiar with Domenico Giambrone during the period they spent together in St. Louis.

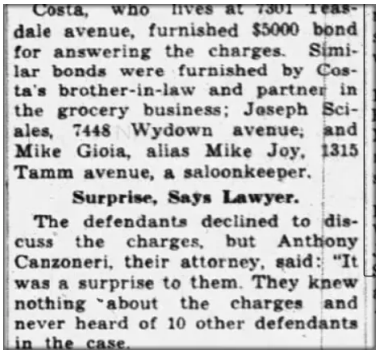

He continued that as a boy growing up in the neighborhood it was his opinion from the general neighborhood gossip that "old man" COSTA, now deceased, owner of Costa Food Distributing Company, was the arbitrator of "Dago" disputes and was also the go-between when differences came up between the "Dagos" and the old Irish hoodlums. He stated he has no knowledge of who the current arbitrator would be; however,

"Old man" Costa was a Palazzese "arbitrator" in the St. Louis Family.

Though Mariano Costa was a mafioso, he was a legitimate businessman through a successful grocery distribution partnership with his Palazzese brother-in-law Giuseppe Sciales and engaged in local politics along with other civic activities. He was also a licensed bondsman who secured bond for numerous mafiosi charged with bootlegging and other crimes in the area during the 1920s and '30s. Along with Costa's assistance, a number of these

mafia figures received legal representation from Anthony Canzoneri (b. 1891), a St. Louis attorney born in Palazzo Adriano like Costa and their more infamous *paesano* Domenico Giambrone. Mariano Costa was often linked to prominent members of the local Family but maintained a respectable public image. However, the murder of St. Louis mafia leader Pasquale Santino in 1927 occurred at the grocery business owned by Costa and Sciales, Costa himself present during the Siculiana-born Santino's death and reportedly "terrified" in the aftermath. Authorities believed he knew who killed Santino but refused to cooperate.

The Canzoneris lived in outlying Johnston City during the general period Domenico Giambrone was active in criminal activity in St. Louis, though there is no direct evidence the Canzoneris knew him or had a presence of their own in Missouri beyond living nearby in Southern Illinois. Tony Canzoneri's future membership in the Bonanno Family suggests they were at least familiar with the mafia subculture and it's likely they knew of fellow Palazzese immigrants across the state line in St. Louis. That another Anthony Canzoneri from Palazzo Adriano provided St. Louis Sicilians with legal representation and worked in tandem with the bondsman Mariano Costa to assist these men adds to the probability that these families were connected.



Costa, who lives at 7301 Teasdale avenue, furnished $5000 bond for answering the charges. Similar bonds were furnished by Costa's brother-in-law and partner in the grocery business; Joseph Sciales, 7448 Wydown avenue; and Mike Gioia, alias Mike Joy, 1315 Tamm avenue, a saloonkeeper.

Surprise, Says Lawyer.

The defendants declined to discuss the charges, but Anthony Canzoneri, their attorney, said: "It was a surprise to them. They knew nothing about the charges and never heard of 10 other defendants in the case.

Costa & a lawyer named Canzoneri assisted St. Louis mafiosi.

In addition to their apparent stature in mafia circles, Domenico Giambrone and Mariano Costa were from the same generation as Giorgio Canzoneri and Palazzo Adriano's small population would suggest most families in St. Louis and Southern Illinois were acquainted with one another by name if nothing else, especially if they intersected through Cosa Nostra. Nicola Gentile was well-aware of seemingly all of his Siculianese *compaesani* in the early American mafia and this extended to men from other parts of Agrigento even if they lived a significant distance from his location at any given time. In contrast, the Canzoneris in Johnston City were essentially "neighbors" of their *compaesani* in St. Louis.

Domenico Giambrone left St. Louis around 1923, likely due to underworld violence targeting him and his allies, including his brothers, and he spent over a decade living in Lousiana. The Canzoneris are still documented as living in Johnston City as of 1920 and interestingly their departure may have coincided with the period their *compaesano* Giambrone left St. Louis, Giorgio Canzoneri's naturalization showing that the Canzoneris were again living in Louisiana as of October 1923 where Giambrone also moved that year. Regardless, Domenico Giambrone was violently murdered after returning to St. Louis in 1934, Giambrone entering a much different but equally violent landscape than the one he had left in 1923. By that time the Canzoneris were nowhere near Missouri or Illinois.

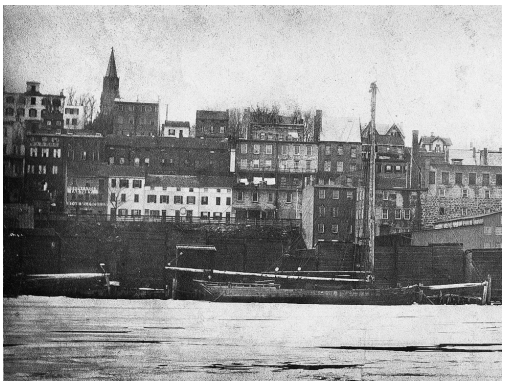
Individuals later linked to Cosa Nostra passed through Johnston City.

Domenico aside, the Canzoneris established ties to the Giambrone surname when a maternal first cousin of Tony Canzoneri married a Frank Giambrone, relation to Domenico undetermined but there being a distinct possibility of relation given Palazzo's small size and Tony's own involvement in Cosa Nostra. Frank Giambrone was born in Louisiana to parents from Palazzo Adriano like the Canzoneri children and this branch of Giambrones moved to New York alongside the Canzoneris. The Canzoneris and these Giambrones would remain in close proximity for the remainder of their lives.

Upstate New York & the Bonanno Family

Beginning in November 1923, the Canzoneris were living in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, the same general area as numerous early Bonanno figures. Tony's father Giorgio Canzoneri initially worked as a butcher as he did in Johnston City and established a grocery store but Tony's parents and siblings would move to the Marlboro area by 1930 where they were joined by the Giambrones near the town of Newburgh directly on the Hudson River. Tony himself had interests in Newburgh, taking ownership of a hotel in the area after his boxing career ended. Joe Bonanno describes in his memoir how the baptism party for

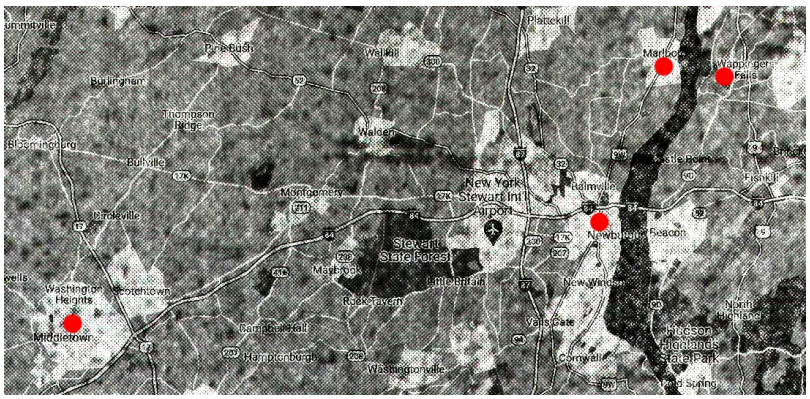
his son Joe Jr. was held at the Newburgh Canzoneri Hotel, an event that would have been of central importance to the Bonanno membership itself.



Bonanno leaders congregated outside of New York City along the Hudson.

Bonanno Family leaders had a long history in the same general area where the Canzoneris settled in Upstate New York. Joe Bonanno and his uncle Giovanni Bonventre ran a dairy farm in Middletown and members of the Bonanno Family often visited, as evidenced by photos and stories in the Bonanno father and son's memoirs. Like Canzoneri, Bonanno's uncle Giovanni Bonventre was a *capodecina* in the Family and Bonanno says it was Bonventre who managed the Middletown farm. Joe Bonanno's predecessor Salvatore Maranzano infamously owned property in nearby Wappingers Falls, a short distance up the Hudson River on the opposite bank from Newburgh. Maranzano held high-level meetings and induction ceremonies on his Wappingers Falls estate in addition to running stills and bootlegging operations in the area with the help of Bonanno Family affiliates.

Significantly, Wappingers Falls is directly across the river from Marlboro, NY, which sits on the same side of the Hudson as Newburgh. Joe Bonanno's autobiography even includes a photo of himself in Marlboro. Though Ciro Gallo's name is far more obscure than the Family leaders mentioned here, his 1933 marriage in Marlboro is just one of many connections the Bonanno group had to this area up the Hudson River.

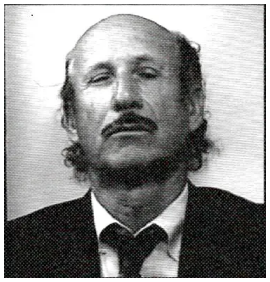


The area around Marlboro had many Bonanno Family connections.

That Ciro Gallo married in a town close to Newburgh, where his Palazzo Adriano *compaesani* the Canzoneris had a presence, is yet another connection point in this emerging picture. This image is made more clear by records for Tony Canzoneri's father Giorgio. Tony's parents and siblings were living in the area circa 1930 after leaving Brooklyn and Giorgio died there in 1946, being buried in Newburgh. The Canzoneris were surrounded by Italian neighbors, another sign the Hudson River area was an attractive colony, many of these immigrants from small villages in Sicily and unaccustomed to urban life.

As evidenced by the DeCavalcante presence there, Marlboro not only drew Italians but specifically groups of insular western Sicilians. In addition to the Canzoneris, the towns of Marlboro and Newburgh had other residents from their hometown, including families with the name Schiro, and the Canzoneris' next door neighbor was an elderly man named Calogero LoBurgio who came from Palazzo Adriano like them. LoBurgio was also the maiden name of Ciro Gallo's mother.

A man matching Calogero LoBurgio's name and year of birth in Trinidad, Colorado, married a woman named "Masarachia" [sic] in 1906. The man living next to the Canzoneris in Marlboro was listed as widowed, so without a death record for the Colorado man's wife there is no way to confirm it's the same man beyond his identical name and age but it appears likely. The Masaracchia surname is most commonly found in Palazzo Adriano and the LoBurgio in New York State can't be placed elsewhere in 1930 using available records. This is a stronger indication the man in Colorado is the same Calogero LoBurgio given his name, age, and hometown appear to be identical to the man living next to the Canzoneris in later years. His wife's surname of Masaracchia even surfaces in modern Palazzo Adriano mafia circles.



The current Palazzo Adriano boss is a Masaracchia.

The current mayor of Palazzo Adriano is named Salvatore Masaracchia and Pietro Paolo Masaracchia has been identified as a recent Cosa Nostra boss within the *comune*. The surname apparently lends itself to important

positions, be it in municipal government or the mafia, though there may be crossover given another current Palazzo Adriano mafia member was employed with the municipality of Corleone. Cosa Nostra leadership in Sicilian villages often draws from multi-generational membership, so Pietro Paolo's position as *rappresentante* could indicate the Masaracchia name goes back further in the local Family.

Another current member of the Palazzo Adriano Family arrested with Pietro Paolo Masaracchia in 2014 is Nicola Parrino. Three Pennsylvania-based Parrinos from Palazzo Adriano were identified by the FBI as made members of the historic Pittston Family: Francesco "Frank" Parrino (b. 1871) and his sons John and Angelo. Frank Parrino initially arrived to New York City in 1898 where he was joining his cousin Ignazio Costa on Elizabeth street, this name drawing back to early St. Louis mafioso Mariano Costa. However, Parrino settled in the Pittston area by the early 20th century and was eventually joined there by his wife and sons. Angelo would marry into the Pittston leadership, who came from Caltanissetta province. They are not listed next to one another, but when the younger Parrinos came to the United States a man on the same page of the ship manifest was from Alcamo in Trapani, the hometown of Ciro Gallo's wife. There is no reason to link this Alcamese man to the Parrinos but these western Sicilians were birds of a feather who often surface together in America even outside of mafia affiliation.

FRANK PARRINO	Deceased
JOHN PARRINO	Living

Parrinos from Palazzo Adriano were identified as Pittston members.

The Parrinos' membership in Pittston again places Palazzo Adriano in proximity to the Bonanno Family network through the Pittston Family's Castellammarese faction under Giuseppe "Joe" Barbara in New York's Southern Tier. Not only were the Parrinos members of the same organization as the Southern Tier group, the son of senior member Stefano LaTorre, from Montedoro in Caltanissetta, told the FBI how LaTorre's son-in-law Angelo and John Parrino once sat on a Family council with the Castellammarese Joe Barbara where they presided over an underworld trial that decided his father's fate, the elder LaTorre ultimately shelved by the Family. Connections between Palazzo Adriano and Bonanno-connected villages in Trapani are a trend that runs throughout this article. LaTorre, son-in-law Angelo Parrino, and Angelo's father Frank were also arrested on bootlegging charges years earlier and there is numerous evidence linking the Parrinos to top mafiosi in Pittston and neighboring towns.

The Parrino name connects directly to the Canzoneris, as Tony's father Giorgio Canzoneri arrived to an uncle named Parrino when he came to the United States and further exploration will show other connections between the Canzoneri and Parrino surnames later in this article. Beyond speculative connections between the Canzoneris and their *compaesani* in Pittston, a Family not otherwise known for Palazzese members, the Canzoneri-connected Calogero LoBurgio's marriage in Trinidad adds Colorado as another geographic marker among this well-traveled set of names and at least one Palazzese mafioso in the Chicago area also spent time there. Trinidad was not without its own place in the Cosa Nostra network, being the residence of leading Colorado Family members who had close ties to the Bonanno Family. Trinidad wasn't far from Pueblo where the Colorado Family likely formed and eventually the Colorado Cheese Company was based in Trinidad, this business a joint affair between the Bonanno and Pueblo leadership.

Colorado, Marlboro, & New Jersey

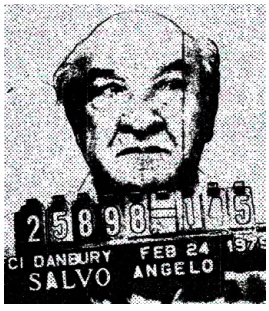
Early Pueblo *rappresentante* Pellegrino Scaglia was murdered in 1922 and Nicola Gentile described how national meetings were held to resolve the matter. Scaglia was from Burgio, Agrigento, and his wife came from Palazzo Adriano which sits near Burgio just across the provincial border in Palermo. This is further indication of a Palazzese colony in Southern Colorado and of course an additional mafia tie-in. It also draws back to St. Louis boss Pasquale Miceli who was himself a Burgio-born *compaesano* of Scaglia that lived in Johnston City, Illinois, along with the Palazzese Canzoneris.

Relatives of Pellegrino Scaglia would flee Pueblo following his murder and ended up in both Kansas City and St. Louis, Scaglia himself having hid out in St. Louis on one occasion before his death. His father-in-law Francesco Accomando from Palazzo Adriano was one of the Pueblo members who transferred to Kansas City after an underworld trial was settled in their favor, as were the Chiappetta brothers from Poggioreale in Trapani. Scaglia's nephew Luca Colletti was yet another, coming from Burgio like him. Palazzo Adriano's close relationship to western Agrigento and southern Trapani are evident among Pellegrino Scaglia's clan and these villages together informed certain branches of Cosa Nostra. These *compaesani* and their neighbors from the same Sicilian region remained closely connected in the United States, giving them a shared political identity in the American mafia, and interestingly the violence against Scaglia and his relatives occurred during the exact same period Domenico Giambrone, a *compaesano* of Scaglia's mafioso father-in-law, was engaged in similar warfare in St. Louis.

Scaglia in-law Accomando (pictured) was a Palazzese mafioso.

The Colorado group in Pueblo and Trinidad was dominated by mafiosi from the Agrigento villages of Lucca Sicula and Burgio as well as neighboring Trapani, with interrelation between men from the two provinces that also included Palazzo Adriano in Palermo as evidenced by the Scaglia marriage. The Agrigento towns are close to the same DeCavalcante-linked villages that populated a colony in Marlboro and Angelo Caruso's brother-in-law Joseph Colletti, a Bonanno *capodecina*, was from Lucca Sicula which like Burgio shares a regional affinity with Palazzo Adriano. Pellegrino Scaglia's nephew Luca Colletti, a Pueblo and Kansas City member, was from Burgio as mentioned, showing the surname surfaces there as well as Lucca Sicula. The Bonanno Family's Joe Colletti lived in Manhattan's East Village prior to New Jersey and Caruso was a soldier in Colletti's crew after having stepped down as interim boss in the early 1930s. It would be Angelo Caruso who became Colletti's eventual succesor as *capodecina*.

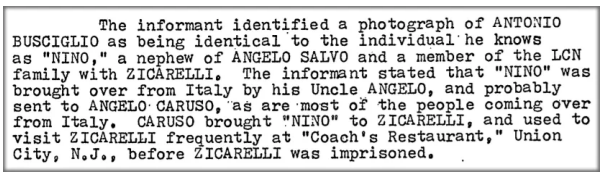
Angelo Salvo from Alessandria della Rocca, Agrigento, would head part of this crew in New Jersey during the late 1970s. He maintained close friendships with his own *compaesani* in the DeCavalcante, Gambino, and Tampa Families and his Sicilian-born nephew Antonino Busciglio was a Bonanno member employed by the DeCavalcante-run Local 394 in Elizabeth. Busciglio was later murdered in 1983 a week after being observed in a heated argument at the home of a DeCavalcante affiliate from his hometown of Alessandria, Carlo Cimo.



Angelo Salvo was a hub between multiple Cosa Nostra groups.

Angelo Salvo connects to Illinois, being born in Williamsville outside of Springfield, where a quiet Family existed. As with Johnston City, which attracted mafia-linked immigrants from Agrigento and Palazzo Adriano like Pasquale Miceli and the Canzoneris, other rural areas of southern Illinois show links to the Cosa Nostra network and the small Springfield Family included mafiosi from western Agrigento, including underboss Domenico "Nick" Campo from Montevago. The Springfield and Rockford organizations were also known to run a network of elaborate bootlegging stills in some of these small towns during prohibition. Though he fit in perfectly with the mafia environment in this part of Illinois, Salvo's family returned to his native Alessandria della Rocca after his birth where he spent his formative years before arriving back in the United States in adulthood, settling in New Jersey. His nephew Antonino Busciglio was reportedly inducted into Cosa Nostra in Sicily before eventually joining his uncle in America according to at least one FBI source.

Angelo Salvo and his nephew have common mafia surnames from Alessandria della Rocca in their immediate family tree and FBI reports place Antonino Busciglio's transfer into the Bonanno Family around the late 1960s. The books were closed in New York at this time and in some exceptional cases Sicilian members did transfer into local American Families much as they had decades earlier. One report indicates it was Salvo's friend Angelo Caruso who helped facilitate this process for Sicilian mafiosi, Caruso described as the point of contact for recent "Italian" immigrants. Despite coming from Leonforte in Enna province, just east of central Sicily, Angelo Caruso maintained a distinguished status even among men from the island's western Sicilian mafia strongholds.



The informant identified a photograph of ANTONIO BUSCIGLIO as being identical to the individual he knows as "NINO," a nephew of ANGELO SALVO and a member of the LCN family with ZICARELLI. The informant stated that "NINO" was brought over from Italy by his Uncle ANGELO, and probably sent to ANGELO CARUSO, as are most of the people coming over from Italy. CARUSO brought "NINO" to ZICARELLI, and used to visit ZICARELLI frequently at "Coach's Restaurant," Union City, N.J., before ZICARELLI was imprisoned.

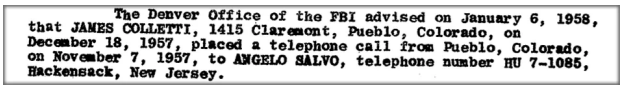
Sicilians like Busciglio were "sent to" Angelo Caruso upon arrival.

The first cousin of Caruso's brother-in-law Joseph Colletti was Vincenzo "Jim" Colletti, a fellow Bonanno member who moved to Pueblo and became the local *rappresentante* after transferring membership. Jim Colletti was partnered with Joe Bonanno in the Colorado Cheese Company, which was based in Trinidad where the Canzoneri-connected Calogero LoBurgio from Palazzo Adriano was apparently married in 1906. Bonanno may have even served as the Colorado Family's representative on the Commission for a time,

showing how Sicilian chain-migration networks influenced Cosa Nostra politics for years to come.

Jim Colletti had in fact arrived to the Pueblo area when he first came to the United States as a young man, arriving to his uncle Giuseppe "Joe Riggio" Mortellaro, who was identified by local police as a so-called "Black Hand leader" in 1919 and heavily associated with other contemporary Colorado mafiosi from Agrigento. Colletti spent a significant period living in Manhattan prior to his permanent move to Colorado decades later but he also lived in Rochester for a short period, this part of Western New York another outpost of the Agrigento network. In New York City, Jim Colletti's longtime roommate was a Joseph Accomando, bringing to mind Pellegrino Scaglia's father-in-law Francesco Accomando who transferred membership from Pueblo to Kansas City.

An FBI report following the agency's investigation into the notorious Apalachin meeting reveals Colletti maintained relations with his cousin's Bonanno *decina* in New Jersey, as evidenced by records of a pre-Apalachin 1957 phone call between Colletti and future crew leader Angelo Salvo. The FBI also documented contact between Jim Colletti and Caruso, the other Angelo who would become the crew's captain shortly thereafter. An unknown 1960s FBI source stated that he knew Jim Colletti to have been a Cosa Nostra member in New York prior to his final departure to Pueblo and noted that Colletti was known to frequent the Shoreview Social Club operated by Angelo Caruso, it being all but confirmed that Jim Colletti was a Bonanno member under his cousin who transferred his membership to Colorado.


The Denver Office of the FBI advised on January 6, 1958, that JAMES COLLETTI, 1415 Claremont, Pueblo, Colorado, on December 18, 1957, placed a telephone call from Pueblo, Colorado, on November 7, 1957, to ANGELO SALVO, telephone number HU 7-1085, Hackensack, New Jersey.

Jim Colletti maintained contact with Angelo Salvo of the Bonannos.

Angelo Salvo was surely familiar with Marlboro, just as Angelo Caruso was. DeCavalcante members with property in Marlboro came from Salvo's hometown of Alessandria della Rocca and his ties to *compaesani* in the DeCavalcante, Tampa, and Gambino Families were documented by the FBI. Given his one-time *capodecina* Angelo Caruso hid out in Marlboro during the 1960s "Banana War", this arrangement could have come via Salvo's ties to DeCavalcante members in Marlboro in addition to the Bonanno leadership's ongoing presence in the area. The well-connected Caruso could have utilized any number of relationships to "lam it" along the Hudson River in the 1960s and he was likely among the Bonanno Family members who once visited

Salvatore Maranzano's property across the river in Wappingers Falls in the early 1930s.

The Bonanno and DeCavalcante Families had ties but their networks typically overlap only at the fringes. The DeCavalcantes have a reputation as one of the most insular American Families and research shows them to have little engagement in national mafia politics save for Sam Rizzo DeCavalcante throwing himself into early negotiations during the 1960s Bonanno Family war as a result of his deceased father Frank's close relationship with Angelo Caruso. New Jersey Bonanno member Antonio "Tony" Riela from San Giuseppe Jato was also described in FBI reports as a de facto "*consigliere*" for the DeCavalcante Family into the 1970s who assisted their administration but could not officially take a leadership role due to his membership in the Bonanno Family. Tony Riela's name comes up repeatedly in Angelo Salvo's FBI file and like Jim Colletti in Pueblo, Riela was a business partner of Joe Bonanno.

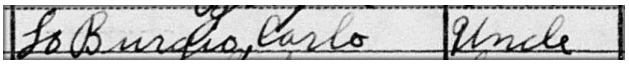
Riela held de facto influence with the DeCavalcantes.

That the Bonanno and DeCavalcante Families intersect in Marlboro of all locations is strange and fascinating. Ciro Gallo and Tony Canzoneri have no known relationships with DeCavalcante figures but Gallo and Canzoneri's ties to Marlboro place them between the two networks, with Colorado another meeting point. Carl Cascio, the brother-in-law of Queens-based DeCavalcante captain Joseph LoLordo from Ribera, whose brother Pasquale was an early Chicago boss, lived in New Jersey and Los Angeles before settling in Colorado where the FBI later identified him as a suspected member, it being unsurprising that the DeCavalcantes too had Pueblo ties though little has surfaced directly linking the two Agrigento-heavy Families. The Bonanno Family's New Jersey *decina* was unquestionably close to the DeCavalcantes, though, and they had documented ties to both Marlboro and Colorado.

The Canzoneris Again

Tony Canzoneri's shared heritage with Ciro Gallo in Palazzo Adriano becomes more significant when looking at the Canzoneris' 1930 US Census record after

the family moved to Upstate New York. Not only was their elderly neighbor Calogero LoBurgio from 1940 living with them rather than next to them, but he is included this time as an uncle to Tony's father Giorgio Canzoneri. Records show this was not simply a social designation, common among Sicilians, but the mother of Giorgio Canzoneri was in fact a LoBurgio, making his uncle LoBurgio a blood relative. Tony Canzoneri's paternal grandmother and Ciro Gallo's mother were both LoBurgios from Palazzo Adriano.



Like Gallo, Canzoneri was related to LoBurgios from Palazzo Adriano.

Ciro Gallo's choice of Marlboro for his 1933 marriage has quickly become less of a mystery. In addition to attracting Agrigento natives connected to the DeCavalcante Family, there was a colony from Gallo's hometown of Palazzo Adriano along the Hudson River connected to two known Bonanno members with roots in Palazzo Adriano, with both Ciro Gallo and Tony Canzoneri having close blood relatives named LoBurgio. It also means a possible common relative of the two men previously lived in Colorado where a later boss was directly tied to the Bonanno crew under Joseph Colletti and Angelo Caruso, the latter having spent time himself in Marlboro. Early boss Pellegrino Scaglia pulled from the same roots, his hometown of Burgio being within walking distance of the Collettis' heritage in Lucca Sicula and Scaglia's wife being Palazzese like Gallo and Canzoneri.

Unlike Gallo's marriage to an Alcamese woman, Tony Canzoneri married outside of his Sicilian heritage. His wife was Jewish, so her connections to other mafia lineages can be easily discounted and their relationship was purely a product of relationships formed in New York. Canzoneri was billed as a Brooklyn resident during the peak of his boxing career though records show he was a resident of Manhattan shortly after his 1939 retirement, living on Central Park West in 1940.

The Bonanno Family is most known for its strong presence in Brooklyn and Queens, but there was a significant faction in Manhattan, particularly the East Village and nearby Little Italy. Angelo Caruso was among the influential members who operated out of Manhattan and his brother-in-law Joseph Colletti was a previous resident of the East Village himself. However, by 1957 Canzoneri was identified by the FBI as a resident of Jackson Heights, Queens, this report noting his association with Palermo-born New York boss Tommy Lucchese, an equal of Joe Bonanno. Jackson Heights and nearby Astoria is where several prominent Riberese families from the DeCavalcante Family also moved after leaving Manhattan and though there is no information linking

Canzoneri to this shadowy faction, his movements yet again complement these patterns.

The FBI carried Canzoneri as an associate of Tommy Lucchese.

Canzoneri's atypical life makes grouping him within the Bonanno Family's network of association difficult beyond his movements and heritage. Bill Bonanno doesn't specify when Canzoneri was inducted into Cosa Nostra and promoted to *capodecina*, though he notes the Family maintained several captains who did not have members under their supervision, utilizing the position more as an honorary title. This arrangement is not unique to the Bonanno Family nor is it reserved for any one type of member, but Canzoneri may have been a candidate for his position given his relative fame as a world-class boxing champion. Joe and Bill Bonanno's autobiographies show a tendency to favor their relationships with individuals of a certain social status and this could have influenced Tony Canzoneri's promotion. Bill's references to Canzoneri show they were proud of their relationship with him.

Tony Canzoneri's somewhat unconventional background in Cosa Nostra circles is not unique. Joe Bonanno's first cousin Dr. Martin Bonventre was identified as a Bonanno member in Bill Bonanno's last book. Bonventre was not simply a practicing medical doctor, he was Director of Medicine at a Brooklyn hospital and his cousin Stefano Magaddino traveled to New York from Buffalo to receive heart treatment from Dr. Bonventre. Bonventre's father Pietro and virtually all male relatives were members. His path into the organization came from blood relation.

Other Bonanno members were even more atypical. Arizona member Russell Andaloro was a music teacher and high school band leader with heritage in Caltanissetta who originally came from the Pittston area and Nicolo Guastella, who previously worked under Salvatore Maranzano in Wappingers Falls, was a sculptor from Palermo's Capaci neighborhood who eventually transferred membership to San Jose. Another Brooklyn Bonanno member who practiced medicine like Martin Bonventre was Dr. Mario Tagliagambe, whose uncle Silvio was murdered in an early New York mafia war. The paternal side of Dr. Tagliagambe's family shows a nomadic journey across numerous Sicilian provinces while his mother's family, the Palmeris, were Castellammarese. Tony Canzoneri's celebrity boxing career is positively fearsome in comparison to some of the hobbies and professions within the Bonanno Family, Canzoneri inflicting wounds rather than healing them and rupturing ear drums rather than pleasing them with orchestral arrangements.

Canzoneri had a “tough” profession.

There is no information indicating Tony Canzoneri’s father Giorgio Canzoneri was a Cosa Nostra member, though Tony’s entry into the Bonanno organization may have come through blood or an unknown marital relation given he grew up in various parts of the United States outside of New York and did not prove himself through local street crime alone, if he participated at all. The Canzoneris’ documented relation to mafia-connected surnames from their hometown of Palazzo Adriano like Giambrone, Masaracchia, and Parrino lends itself to this tradition, as does the recurring presence of Palazzese mafiosi in different American locations.

Interestingly, Tony Canzoneri’s mother’s maiden name was Schiro, like the early *Arbëreshë* Bonanno Family boss Nicolo Schiro. Both the Canzoneri and Schiro names feature prominently in Palazzo Adriano town history and are connected to the historic upper classes of the small village. Nicolo Schiro was similarly a product of this element in his hometown of Roccamena, being the grandson of a former mayor as mentioned. Though Ciro Gallo’s Italo-Albanian family history is speculative but likely, we can confirm Tony Canzoneri was an *Arbëreshë* like Nicolo Schiro.

Sicilians in Schiro’s hometown of Roccamena had Albanian ancestry.

Tony Canzoneri’s mother was born in Palazzo Adriano, an *Arbëreshë* colony, and as Nicolo Schiro’s own Italo-Albanian heritage suggests, the Schiro

surname is overwhelmingly *Arbëreshë*. Nicolo Schiro was from Roccamena but had blood and marital ties to other neighboring towns though it can't be confirmed if he had relatives in Palazzo Adriano. *Arbëreshë* blood is well-distributed in this area of Palermo province and some of these villages are known for maintaining Albanian dialects and customs even into modernity. There is evidence the Schiros from Roccamena and Palazzo Adriano both had extended relatives in Prizzi and an ancestor of Tony's mother was named Nicolo Schiro but he was much older than the Bonanno Family boss and lived in Palazzo Adriano, not Roccamena. Tony Canzoneri and Nicolo Schiro were nonetheless two men with *Arbëreshë* blood who joined the Bonanno Family which gives their story a certain bond outside of confirmed relation. With Prizzi in mind, a suspected early Bonanno member was Nicola Campagna from Prizzi (b. 1896) who lived in Colorado prior to Manhattan before dying in 1946, his background suggesting he associated with some of the names mentioned in this article.

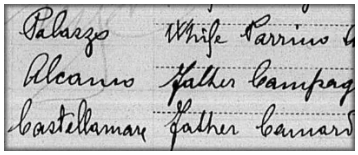
Other shared surnames do come up in relation to the Canzoneris and Schiros from Palazzo Adriano and Roccamena, too. A different Giorgio Canzoneri from Palazzo Adriano born the same year as Tony's father once arrived from Sicily to his cousin Francesco Governale on Manhattan's Chrystie Street. The groundbreaking May 2014 issue of *Informer Journal* identifies an Antonino Governale as brother-in-law to the first known Bonanno Family boss Paolo Orlando, a relative of Nicolo Schiro, although Antonino had a background in Partinico and Camporeale rather than Palazzo Adriano. When Schiro arrived back in America from a trip to Sicily in 1902, he listed Antonino Governale as his uncle. A likely coincidence but the Canzoneri and Schiro clans paralleled one another on multiple fronts, perhaps a reflection of their *Arbëreshë* history rather than a concrete connection between the two clans but still worthy of mention. Partinico also surfaced earlier in Johnston City via Tony Musso, the other known Sicilians in this small Illinois town being primarily from Palazzo Adriano and Burgio.

This "other" Giorgio Canzoneri, not Tony's father, shows other potential connections to mafia names beyond Governale. His wife was Antonia Parrino, an *Arbëreshë*-connected surname shared with a current Palazzo Adriano mafia member and three Palazzese brothers in the Pittston Family referenced earlier. Though this Giorgio Canzoneri's wife lists her residence as Palazzo Adriano like him and the Parrino name is common there, the Parrino surname is also common in Alcamo, the hometown of Ciro Gallo's wife. Two murdered brothers from Alcamo had the surname Parrino and were involved with the Bonanno Family early in its history.

The Alcamese Parrino brothers were killed in the early 1930s.

Rosario Parrino was an Alcamese mafioso affiliated with the Bonanno Family who moved to Detroit, where he was killed in 1930 with Castellammarese Detroit boss Gaspare Milazzo. Milazzo was previously a resident of New York and he was deeply connected to top Bonanno Family leaders at the time, Joe Bonanno confirming that like Rosario Parrino he too was under the Bonanno Family prior to joining Detroit. Parrino's older brother Giuseppe remained in New York and was selected by *capo dei capi* Giuseppe "Joe" Masseria to replace Nicolo Schiro as Bonanno Family *rappresentante* though Giuseppe Parrino was killed in 1931 by pro-Maranzano forces who rejected his collaboration with their enemy Masseria. There is no reason to connect the Alcamese Parrinos to the Palazzese ones but Parrino is an *Arbëreshë* surname and there is documented migration of some *Arbëreshë* families from Piana dei Greci to the east who arrived in Alcamo during the 19th century and perhaps earlier, an indication the Alcamese Parrinos were *Arbëreshë* themselves. Ciro Gallo's wife Caterina Argento's great-great-grandmother was a Parrino from Alcamo but the relation is too far removed to be relevant here.

Another trip from Sicily shows the "other" Giorgio Canzoneri traveling with a man from Alcamo and a family from Castellammare del Golfo. They are grouped together on the manifest and the Castellammarese travelers arrived to a Vito Buccellato in New York, a surname inseparable from Castellammarese mafia bloodlines in Sicily, New York City, and Detroit. This Giorgio Canzoneri's wife was a Parrino, as mentioned, and like the Pittston Parrinos, we see migrants from Bonanno-affiliated Trapani towns arrive to the United States with natives of Palazzo Adriano. Again a probable coincidence, but the emphasis of these paragraphs is on big picture connectivity and similar patterns of migration that suggest affinity opposed to a revelatory discovery that directly links these Palazzesi to Trapanese mafiosi.

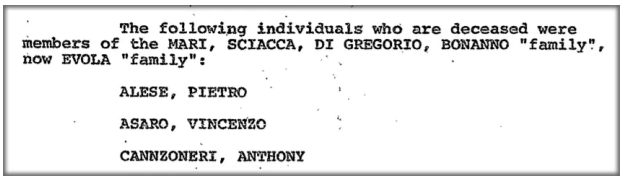


Palazzo Adriano, Alcamo, and Castellammare show up together repeatedly.

Though this Giorgio Canzoneri's age and hometown are a perfect match for Tony Canzoneri's father, the names and ages of his wife and children differ. Sicilian naming customs could indicate this Giorgio is a first cousin of Tony's father, as cousins of the same generation are named for grandparents and thus mirror each other in name and relative age. In this case the age is more or less exact and both Giorgio Canzoneris descended from the same small village of Palazzo Adriano where a degree of relation was almost guaranteed among many inhabitants.

Adding to this is Tony's father Giorgio Canzoneri's 1903 immigration, arriving to an uncle named Giuseppe Parrino in Louisiana. Both "branches" of the Giorgio Canzoneri name have ties to the same Palazzese surnames, other threads directly and indirectly linking them to individuals from Trapani. The Canzoneris' *compaesano* Ciro Gallo was also from Palazzo Adriano and he married an Alcamese woman in the Marlboro area, where the Canzoneris lived with a biological uncle who shared Gallo's mother's surname.

Ciro Gallo, Tony Canzoneri, and various Palazzese mafia surnames line up better than expected when I first noticed Gallo and Canzoneri shared a Sicilian hometown and though neither man's background readily matches our understanding of historic Bonanno membership these individuals have opened up new areas of investigation worthy of pursuit. These were not two random Palazzese men who happened to affiliate with the Bonanno Family for reasons entirely independent of one another but two small nodes in a much larger network of relationships likely derived from geographic or subcultural affinity that went beyond provincial lines.


The following individuals who are deceased were members of the MARI, SCIACCA, DI GREGORIO, BONANNO "family", now EVOLA "family":

ALESE, PIETRO

ASARO, VINCENZO

CANNZONERI, ANTHONY

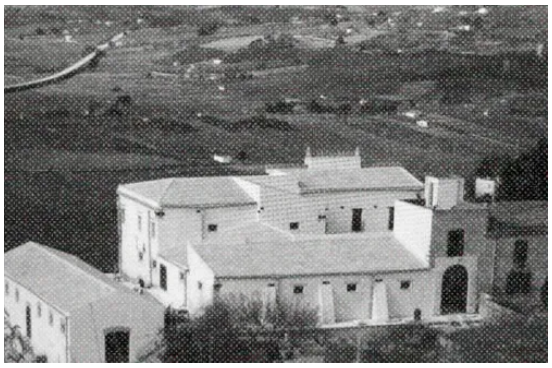
Canzoneri was identified as a deceased Bonanno member in the 1970s.

If there was any remaining doubt about Bill Bonanno's claim that Tony Canzoneri belonged to the Bonanno Family, further support is found in an early 1970s FBI report listing Anthony "Cannzoneri" [sic] as a deceased Bonanno member. Tony Canzoneri died of natural causes in 1959 but this is

the earliest known reference confirming his membership even though earlier reports exist confirming his association with figures like Tommy Lucchese. It's common for FBI informants to provide historic information about the organization years after the fact, especially member identifications. This information could have come from a contemporary 1970s informant given the timing of the report but it nonetheless shows awareness of Tony Canzoneri's formal affiliation with the Bonanno Family beyond Bill Bonanno's published account of Canzoneri as a Family *capodecina*.

Another Gallo in the Bonanno Family

My initial interest in Ciro Gallo came from his shared surname with Baldassare "Benny" Gallo, an early Williamsburg figure suspected of being a leading Bonanno Family member before his 1930 murder. Williamsburg neighbored Ciro Gallo's residence in Bushwick, Ciro living near the border of the two neighborhoods, and the Gallo surname is rare in Bonanno history, these being the only two Gallos known to affiliate with the group. Benny Gallo was not from Palazzo Adriano like Ciro Gallo, however, his parents instead coming from the inland Trapani villages of Santa Ninfa and Salemi.



Santa Ninfa played a lesser-known role in Bonanno Family history.

These Trapani towns produced a well-hidden but nonetheless influential faction of early members somewhat distinct from the leading Bonanno clans of Castellammare and Camporeale. In addition to Benny Gallo, another early leader among this element was Gaspare Messina, who came from Salemi. Messina was a Bonanno affiliate before moving to Boston where he quickly became the local boss as confirmed by Nicola Gentile, who visited with Messina in Boston in the early 1920s. Messina would temporarily serve as *capo dei capi* after Joe Masseria was deposed and ultimately murdered in 1931, living again in New York City during this period where he associated with Bonanno leaders while possibly retaining his rank as remote Boston *rappresentante*.

Bonanno membership from inland Trapani has nonetheless persisted, 1960s Bonanno boss Paul Sciacca coming from Salemi and recent Bonanno captains Vito Grimaldi and his son Joe tracing their heritage to Santa Ninfa. Vito Grimaldi's father Giuseppe was identified as an earlier Bonanno *capodecina* like his son and grandson. Famed mafia journalist Jerry Capeci identified the elderly Vito Grimaldi as an advisor to the Bonanno "Sicilian faction" within the last decade though he was an American native born in New York.

Vito Grimaldi's heritage drew back to early Bonanno figures.

The Grimaldis were one of several families from Santa Ninfa in the Bonanno Family, one-time acting *capodecina* Joseph DiMaria also descending from this village and interrelating with the historic leadership's hometown of Camporeale, where half of Nicolo Schiro's parentage descended. Several younger men connected to inland Trapani have been identified as holding the positions of captain and acting captain in recent years, though they don't have surnames common to this discussion. At least one of these men traces his heritage to Partanna, where the Bonanno Family Restivos came from. Louis Restivo and his father Biagio both served as captains like all three Grimaldis and the men were intimate associates over multiple generations. *Capodecina* Gaetano "Smitty" D'Angelo and his brother Girolamo, known as "Jerry", were other important Bonanno names with heritage in Partanna, "Smitty" even serving briefly as *consigliere* prior to the 1967 murder of him and another brother, James, in the infamous Cypress Gardens massacre.

Paul Sciacca's name is well-known but his heritage is rarely referenced in coverage of the Bonanno Family. Sciacca was from Salemi and married a woman from Santa Ninfa, showing overlap between the same towns evidenced earlier in Benny Gallo's family tree. This faction of the Bonanno Family eventually migrated from Williamsburg and Bushwick to nearby neighborhoods in Queens and later Long Island while continuing to serve a vital role in organizational politics. Paul Sciacca himself would serve as Family boss in the wake of the 1960s "Banana War" but his leadership was marked by instability due to fallout from the conflict. By the 1970s, Sciacca was a soldier under Nicola "Nick the Battler" DiStefano, whose own heritage was in Salemi and Castelvetrano.

Ciro Gallo was active in Bushwick, which was near-inseparable from Williamsburg in context of Bonanno activity, but Ciro's 1927 arrival in California and Benny Gallo's 1930 murder would have left little time for the two men to associate after Ciro moved to Brooklyn. Benny Gallo has not been definitively identified as a Bonanno member but his Trapani birth, residence in Williamsburg, and documented stature in local rackets make him a possible Family leader during the 1920s. Researchers should not make the mistake of correlating publicity and outward appearances with formal rank or even membership, as the inner-workings of the organization don't always reflect what's visible to outsiders, but formal stature can sometimes be inferred by looking at both a figure's Sicilian hometown and perceived stature in early mafia circles.

New York mafia historians Angelo Santino and Richard Warner agree Benny Gallo was likely an influential Bonanno member in Williamsburg based on his reputation and the patterns outlined throughout this section. Ostensibly the manager of a Brooklyn restaurant, the Secret Service was well-aware of Benny's counterfeiting activities and a corresponding 1922 arrest noted several associates whose ancestry can be traced to Salemi, where Gallo was living prior to New York City. That Benny Gallo had heritage in Santa Ninfa and Salemi and associated with men from this part of Trapani in Williamsburg suggests he was a spiritual predecessor of men like the Grimaldis and Restivos as well as Paul Sciacca and Joe DiMaria. He may have been a successor to Gaspare Messina after the Boston *rappresentante* first left New York.

Williamsburg was once the Bonanno Family's center of operations.

Benny Gallo's 1930 murder is not mentioned by Joe or Bill Bonanno and the exact motivation for the killing is unknown, journalists of the time forced to speculate. Law enforcement and the media alike often erroneously attributed early "gangland" murders to racket-based motivations when later cooperation by mafia insiders reveals these murders to be the product of internal Cosa Nostra politics. Benny Gallo's murder might never be properly contextualized but I'm more likely to assume his killing was political given other events in the

Bonanno Family at the time. Several Bonanno leaders were murdered between 1930 and 1931 prior to and during the Castellammarese War.

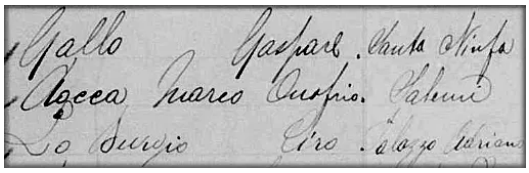
An examination of immigration records does open up a potential connection between Ciro Gallo and Benny Gallo. Benny's father Gaspare Gallo came to the United States from Santa Ninfa in 1904 with a man from Salemi and listed immediately after them on the manifest is a Ciro LoBurgio from Palazzo Adriano, the latter headed to Chicago. Ciro Gallo's mother was a LoBurgio from Palazzo Adriano and his brother Joe Gallo, the San Jose member, initially headed to relatives in Chicago upon arrival in America. As established earlier, the LoBurgio surname is a common link between Palazzese Bonanno members Ciro Gallo and Tony Canzoneri, this being the surname of Gallo's mother and Canzoneri's great-uncle who lived with the Canzoneris in the Newburgh / Marlboro area.

Ciro's brother Joe Gallo (pictured) arrived to Chicago.

Tony Canzoneri's family moved to Brooklyn when Benny Gallo was a powerful figure in Williamsburg and though Tony's relatives moved to the Newburgh area soon thereafter, Tony was still billed from Brooklyn as his boxing career played out. Both the Canzoneris and Ciro Gallo were in Williamsburg or neighboring Bushwick for at least a short time while Benny Gallo was active there. It's thus striking that Benny Gallo's father was from inland Trapani but came to the United States with someone whose surname and hometown have direct ties to fellow Bonanno members Ciro Gallo and Tony Canzoneri, the men grouped together on the same arrival manifest.

It's interesting too this LoBurgio shares a first name with Ciro Gallo, as given names are generally derived from relatives. As the second Gallo son, Ciro was likely named for his maternal grandfather, whose name would have been Ciro LoBurgio like the man who traveled with Gaspare Gallo, suggesting this was a cousin who derived his name from the same man on his paternal side. This LoBurgio was around a decade older than Ciro Gallo and would make two return trips to Sicily. He returned to the United States in 1914, heading to St. Louis where his *compaesano* Domenico Giambrone was a leading mafioso, then returned to Sicily again. Ciro LoBurgio's arrival in 1921 listed his destination as Kingston, Illinois, a small town neighboring Johnston City

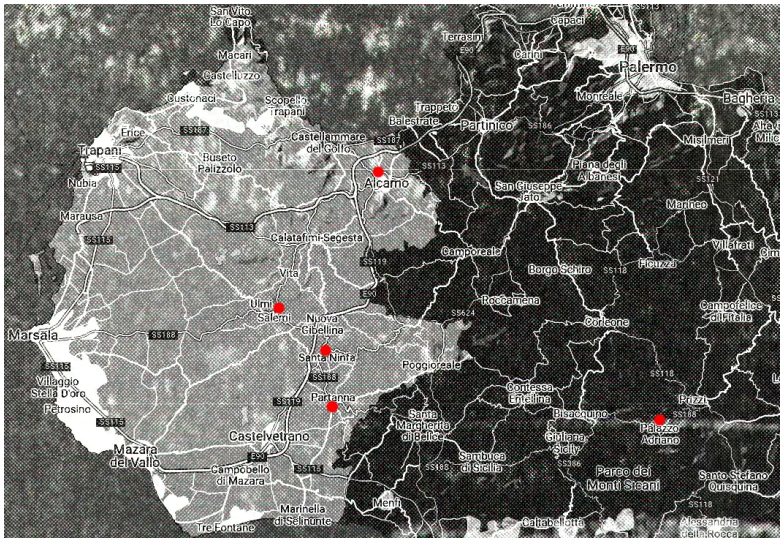
where young Tony Canzoneri and his family were living at the time, their blood ties to the LoBurgio name already established.



Gaspare Gallo came to the US with a LoBurgio from Palazzo Adriano.

I couldn't confirm the relationship between Benny's father Gaspare Gallo from Santa Ninfa and his fellow traveler Ciro LoBurgio from Palazzo Adriano, neither could I confirm Ciro LoBurgio is a direct relative of *compaesani* like Ciro Gallo's mother or Tony Canzoneri's great-uncle who share the LoBurgio surname. Ciro LoBurgio's presence in Chicago and Southern Illinois like Joe Gallo and the Canzoneris, respectively, place them in the same colonies at the very least, and Ciro LoBurgio's additional presence in St. Louis further places him in the vicinity of Domenico Giambrone when he was a rising figure in the developing Missouri mafia. In addition to Joe Gallo's initial presence in Chicago, LoBurgio's arrival to Chicago is particularly significant as Ciro Gallo was directly connected to Nick DeJohn, a Chicago member with Palazzese heritage. An older Palazzese mafioso related to DeJohn was Salvatore "Sam DeJohn" DiGiovanni who also spent time in Colorado before residing in the Chicago area himself.

Researching mysterious Cosa Nostra figures does produce occasional coincidences. Sometimes a name, location, or seemingly obvious connection turns out to be a red herring. More common in my experience, though, is that these coincidences end up being part of the complex and confusing web of relationships that form the mafia network or its adjacent relations. Stated clearly, Benny Gallo's father came to the United States with a man from Ciro Gallo's hometown who shared his mother's surname. This man went to Chicago where Ciro's brother would arrive a decade later and he then went to Southern Illinois while Tony Canzoneri lived there. Ciro Gallo and Tony Canzoneri in turn ended up in the Williamsburg-Bushwick neighborhoods where Benny Gallo operated and they joined the same Cosa Nostra Family. Ciro LoBurgio provides a potential link between all three Bonanno members even if it maps out indirectly.



Trapani villages (left) share a similar network with Palazzo Adriano (right).

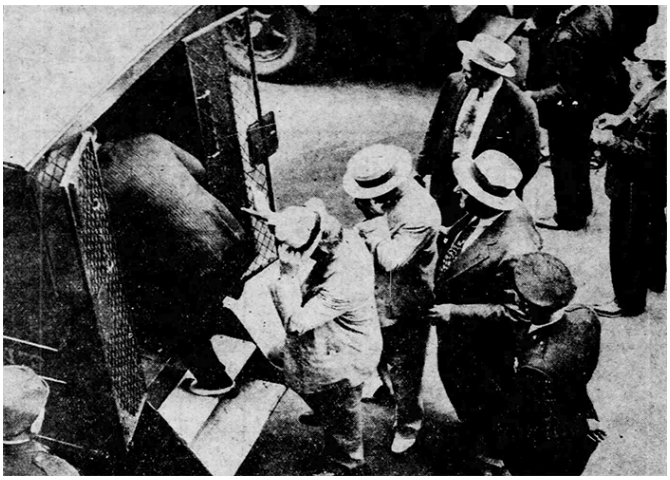
We know of numerous connections between Palazzo Adriano and Bonanno-connected Trapani towns. The Chicago member from Palazzo Adriano with a confirmed relationship to his *compaesani* Ciro and Joe Gallo, Nick DeJohn, was also said to be related to local Chicago mafioso Vincenzo Benevento from Partanna, near Benny Gallo's hometown of Santa Ninfa and another *comune* that produced Bonanno members. In Brooklyn, Chicago, Pittston, Colorado, and California we see people from Palazzo Adriano and different parts of Trapani end up in close proximity with one another along with apparent coincidences placing these immigrants together on travel manifests. Independent of research into Cosa Nostra, it is an observable pattern, immigrants from Palazzo Adriano not simply falling into the same geographic and social connections as Trapanese and Agrigentino networks as it relates to Cosa Nostra, but showing these tendencies among the "civilian" population as well.

The individuals discussed here are mysterious unto themselves but do provide hints that suggest these men were not strangers to the mafia phenomenon prior to entering the United States and that is the framework used in this article to analyze them. Sicily is a small island and though relations are often formed along relatively rigid *compaesani* lines, mafia networks were established throughout the island and many of these towns are not a great distance from each other on a map even when they don't directly border one another. Cross-pollination between Sicilian villages shows up in other mafia bloodlines and the island of Sicily is comparable in size to a small American State. As guarded and insular as the mafia is, it seeks to expand its ties within the subculture, connecting to other Sicilian villages and even parts of mainland Italy. It occasionally retracts these connections, too, often through violence. This is true for American Cosa Nostra networks as well.

The John Bazzano Murder & National Politics

Ciro Gallo's ancestral links to Cosa Nostra figures are based on curious circumstantial connections, but concrete evidence linking Gallo to high-ranking mafia figures and their corresponding politics surfaced a short time after he established residence in Brooklyn. Tangential explorations of Ciro Gallo's background as it relates to both himself and other Palazzese mafiosi aside, he did affiliate himself with Cosa Nostra very quickly after arriving in America and specifically New York. This was punctuated by a violent murder that has been well-documented but its alleged participants have not been properly dissected.

In 1932, Ciro Gallo was arrested in New York City as a suspect in the disappearance and murder of Pittsburgh boss Giovanni "John" Bazzano, whose mutilated body was discovered in a bag on the streets of Brooklyn. Among those arrested with Gallo were Colombo members John Oddo and Cassandro "Tony" Bonasera, Gambino *capodecina* Giuseppe Traina, Buffalo members Paolo Palmeri and Salvatore "Sam" DiCarlo, as well as Pittston boss Santo Volpe, "Peter Lombardi" of Trenton, and Pittsburgh figures Charles Spallino, Michael Russo, Michael Bua, and Frank Adragna. Pittston Family member Angelo Polizzi was also arrested, as was the infamous Albert Anastasia of Brooklyn. These men were detained by police at a "celebration" event following the murder.



Bazzano murder suspects being loaded up after arrest, 1932.

The John Bazzano murder has been covered by other sources and not all details will be included here. In summary, the Calabrian Pittsburgh *rappresentante* John Bazzano was accused of having the three Neapolitan Volpe brothers murdered in 1932. An ethnic component to the conflict was evident in that the Volpes were allies of fellow Campanian Vito Genovese, then

Charlie Luciano's underboss, while Bazzano was said to have ties to fellow Calabrian Albert Anastasia, underboss to Vincenzo Mangano. Genovese took issue with the Volpe massacre and John Bazzano was called to account by the Commission in NYC. An underworld trial was held and the Commission ruled against Bazzano, who was executed in New York following the meeting. Though some if not all of the Volpes were members of Bazzano's Pittsburgh Family, various sources have observed that high-level murders required Commission approval, this being especially crucial in the wake of the Castellammarese War, which ended only a short time earlier.

The men arrested by police were not random. The presence of Pittsburgh visitors speaks for itself given it was their boss John Bazzano on trial. Charles Spallino was from the same Calabrian hometown as Bazzano, while Michael Bua, Michael Russo, and Frank Adragna were Sicilians. Pittsburgh was noted for taking in a significant faction of mainland Italians at a time when most American Families remained predominately Sicilian, Nicola Gentile recounting that this initially took place in the late 1910s when a Calabrian Camorra Society was absorbed into the Pittsburgh Family with the approval of the national mafia leadership after a period of upheaval between the two rival ethnic groups.

John Bazzano and Charles Spallino were from the town of Palizzi Marina in Reggio Calabria and their close association with local Sicilian figures is firmly established, there also being a close relationship between Sicilian Pittsburgh *rappresentante* Gregorio Conte from Comitini in Agrigento and Camorra leader Ferdinando Mauro from Sambiase in Calabria's Catanzaro province dating back to the period prior to the entry of non-Sicilians into the organization. Spallino surfaced earlier in connection with the murder of a previous Pittsburgh boss in 1929, the Sicilian Stefano Monastero from Caccamo, showing he was involved in high-level Pittsburgh activities on an ongoing basis and this included the murders of two Family *rappresentanti*. Spallino was also charged in another underworld murder during this period.

Spallino was connected to the murders of two Pittsburgh bosses.

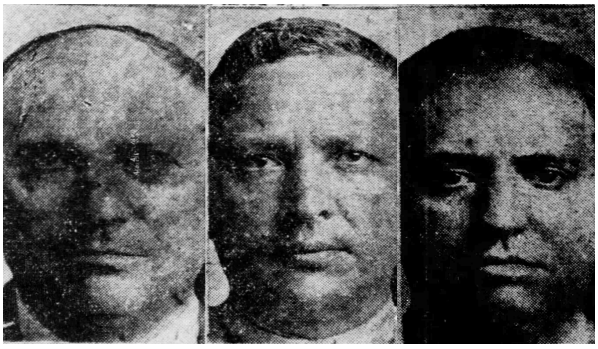
Bua and Russo, both named Michael, descended from Palermo province, Bua's hometown of Trabia producing other Western Pennsylvania members the Limas, one of which was Salvatore Lima who moved to San Francisco and became the Family *consigliere* in the late 1920s while his nephew and son-in-law Antonio "Tony" Lima became the San Francisco boss for a period beginning in the 1930s. Tony Lima became an informant in the mid-1960s and told the FBI he was inducted into Cosa Nostra by Pittsburgh boss Stefano Monastero, whose murder was linked to 1932 Bazzano arrestee Charles Spallino as mentioned above.

Interestingly, Tony Lima also told the FBI that Johnstown, another city in Western Pennsylvania where the Limas once lived, had its own separate Family earlier in American mafia history and what's known of the mafiosi from Johnstown shows them to be primarily from Trabia like the Limas as well as neighboring Caltanissetta / Enna, the *compaesani* groups in Johnstown mirroring elements of the adjacent Pittsburgh Family. Lima stated that the Johnstown "*borgata*" was eventually absorbed into the Pittsburgh Family. Michael Russo descended from Cerda, near Trabia, while Frank Adragna traced his heritage to Alcamo, Trapani.

Santo Volpe's position as Pittston boss makes his attendance unsurprising, the underworld trial of another Pennsylvania *rappresentante* providing an obvious regional motivation for him to be there. His aide Angelo Polizzi was an influential Pittston member from San Cataldo, near Volpe's hometown of Montedoro, who would transfer to Detroit where Polizzi's son Michael married into the Detroit Family leadership and became a top administrator in the organization. These Pittston representatives were from Caltanissetta, drawing back to Palazzo Adriano, the hometown of arrestee Ciro Gallo, as the Parrinos described earlier in this article were Palazzese members of the Pittston Family and Angelo Parrino married the daughter of boss Santo Volpe's *compaesano* Stefano LaTorre, one of the founding members of the Family who Volpe first arrived to from their native Montedoro.

The Buffalo emissaries who attended the Bazzano affair were similarly connected to the highest levels of mafia leadership. Paolo Palmeri's brother Angelo is believed to have been underboss to Giuseppe DiCarlo Sr., the first known *rappresentante* of Buffalo and father to Paolo's fellow attendee Sam DiCarlo. Paolo Palmeri was from Castellammare del Golfo like another dominant faction in Buffalo under Stefano Magaddino and he was close to his *paesani* in the Bonanno Family but also established close ties to the Gambino and Genovese Families. Both of the dominant *compaesani* factions in Buffalo were well-represented by Palmeri and Sam DiCarlo, the DiCarlos being from

Caltanissetta province like the Pittston attendees and related by marriage to their Vallelunga-born *compaesano* Tony Bonasera of the Colombo Family, Bonasera being among the 1932 arrestees as well.



Trenton's "Lombardi" (L), Buffalo's Palmeri (M), and DiCarlo (R).

"Peter Lombardi" is the most enigmatic of those in attendance. His name is alternately spelled "Lombardo" in some accounts and his age of fifty places him at the older end of the spectrum, suggesting he was not a new face to Cosa Nostra. The Philadelphia and DeCavalcante Families had members living in Trenton by 1932 and Gambino members were eventually inducted there. Later sources state Trenton rackets were operated in various partnerships between representatives of these three Families and "Peter Lombardi" was evidently important enough to visit New York for the underworld trial of a national boss. The men detained in connection with the John Bazzano murder all came from the East Coast and though the other two Pennsylvania Families are represented, there was no direct Philadelphia presence among those arrested.

Further research indicates "Peter Lombardi" was Pietro Giallombardo. Giallombardo was from Belmonte Mezzagno in Palermo, linking him with the many Philadelphia members from that village as well as fellow Bazzano murder arrestee Giuseppe Traina of the Gambino Family, who himself had a close relationship to his Philadelphia *compaesani*. Pietro Giallombardo's brother Giuseppe was a prominent counterfeiter also affiliated with the early Gambino Family and Giuseppe Giallombardo had an associate named Salvatore Traina. Philadelphia member informant Rocco Scafidi's father Gaetano and other relatives were high-ranking Philadelphia leaders from Belmonte Mezzagno and Rocco told the FBI in the 1960s that "Lombardi", who we know to be Pietro Giallombardo, was a Gambino member close to Traina, confirming his affiliation. Outside of formal association, Giallombardo was the only representative arrested for the Bazzano murder who lived in New Jersey at the time.

Albert Anastasia (L) in 1932 and Giuseppe Traina (R) in 1928.

Albert Anastasia was tied to John Bazzano through his Calabrian heritage and Anastasia's rank in New York made participation in the affair a given. Ethnic comradery aside, Anastasia had gotten his start in Brooklyn under Calabrian leader Biagio Giordano, murdered while riding in a vehicle with Anastasia in 1923, and remnants of this early Brooklyn Calabrian circle followed Anastasia into the Gambino Family, including Vincenzo "Jimmy" Macri, whose daughter married the son of powerful Pittsburgh *capodecina* Antonio Ripepi, one of the longtime heads of the group's Calabrian element. Macri was murdered in 1954 but the intermarriage of his and Ripepi's children represented the close ties between the Gambino and Pittsburgh Families' respective Calabrian factions. Another daughter of Antonio Ripepi was married to John Bazzano Jr., interestingly, who became a high-ranking Pittsburgh member in his own right.

Fellow Gambino arrestee Giuseppe Traina was a Sicilian from Belmonte Mezzagno and he was by this time a *capodecina*. However, former Gambino captain Michael DiLeonardo knew Traina's son Mario, who later succeeded his father as *capodecina*, and other proteges of the elder Traina who told him Giuseppe had once been part of early boss Salvatore D'Aquila's administration, serving as *consigliere*. Michael DiLeonardo's grandfather Vincenzo, known as "Mr. Jimmy", was himself a Gambino *capodecina* under Salvatore D'Aquila who came from Bisacquino and he was a close personal friend of Giuseppe Traina.

Michael DiLeonardo also identified his grandfather Jimmy as a partner in Traina's Empire Yeast Company. Records show New Jersey Gambino *capodecina* Antonio Paterno from Catania province was another partner, as was New Jersey-based Giovanni Cappello Sr., from Belmonte Mezzagno like the Trainas. Cappello would thereafter move to Philadephia where an FBI report states he held the position of *capodecina* for a time. His son John Jr. would become a *capodecina* under the eventual leadership of Angelo Bruno.

Gambino *capodecina* Jimmy DiLeonardo was close to Traina.

A Philadelphia branch of Empire Yeast was run by another family from Belmonte Mezzagno who were all made members, the Scafidis. Gaetano Scafidi was a *capodecina* in Philadelphia and in-law Francesco Barrale was a captain in South Jersey, the latter succeeded by Gaetano's brother Giuseppe Scafidi in later years. A partner in this branch of Empire Yeast was Philadelphia member Antonino Calio from Castrogiovanni, near Bonanno leader Angelo Caruso's hometown of Leonforte in Enna province. Pittsburgh had its own branch of Empire Yeast under Family boss Giuseppe Siragusa from Palermo. The president of Empire Yeast in New York before Giuseppe Traina was Antonino Cecala, a well-known counterfeiter from Baucina close to former *capo dei capi* Giuseppe Morello, and another partner in the business was Tommaso "Tom" Gagliano, from Corleone like Morello, who became official boss of the Lucchese Family in 1931.

Another New York partner with Lucchese connections was Domenico Dioguardi from Baucina, a *compaesano* of Antonino Cecala. Tom Gagliano's own *paesano* Giuseppe Morello was himself involved with Empire Yeast, by this time holding an influential position under Genovese *rappresentante* Joe Masseria from Menfi and Marsala. Cecala had been a member of Morello's original Family and in the 1920s could have been a member of the Lucchese Family, which included other Baucinesi, or he may have followed Giuseppe Morello into the Genovese Family, which included at least one member with heritage in Baucina along with numerous members from other towns in the Palermo interior.

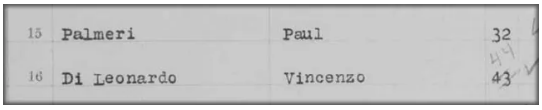
The Lucchese and Genovese Families were originally part of a Family of Corleonese *compaesani* run by Giuseppe Morello prior to his counterfeiting conviction many years previous and the organization was split in the early 1920s after Morello's release from prison and several years of internecine warfare. Giuseppe Morello was also involved with an earlier mafia "super company" in the New York lathing industry that included Empire Yeast partners Antonino Cecala and Tom Gagliano. These opportunities to partner with other top mafiosi were attractive to all of those involved and facilitated

cooperation even between rivals. These companies also served as a point of unity between Families in different locations, Empire Yeast a conglomerate that included New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh.

Cecala was the proprietor of Empire Yeast before Traina.

Yeast companies typically funneled resources into alcohol production, so the collaboration by high-ranking members in different cities provided these men with legal and illegal financial incentives. These activities were also marked by underworld volatility. Antonino Cecala was killed in 1928 followed by Giuseppe Morello in 1930, then Giuseppe Siragusa in 1931. The Morello and Siragusa murders were not the result of business, but political machinations during and immediately after the Castellammarese War while Cecala's violent death is largely mysterious. Regardless of these murders, the totality of the partnership evidenced in Giuseppe Traina's company speaks to the stature sources like Nicola Gentile and Michael DiLeonardo assign to him.

As with Giuseppe Traina, Michael DiLeonardo knew his grandfather to be a dear friend of Paolo Palmeri from Buffalo who was arrested with Traina in 1932 after the Bazzano murder. Immigration records confirm the relationship, as a 1924 ship manifest shows Jimmy DiLeonardo and Paolo Palmeri traveled to Italy together during a period when Salvatore D'Aquila is reported to have sent American mafia representatives to Palermo. Among the asides Michael DiLeonardo heard coming up in Brooklyn was that Salvatore D'Aquila was particularly close to Buffalo, the DiLeonardo and Palmeri trip providing direct evidence of the relationship. D'Aquila's choice of Jimmy DiLeonardo and Paolo Palmeri as emissaries to Palermo was a reflection of American mafia politics, as were the men arrested later for the John Bazzano murder.



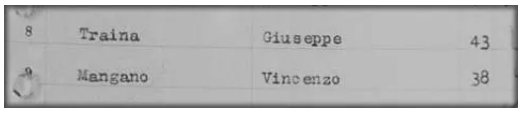
15	Palmeri	Paul	32
16	Di Leonardo	Vincenzo	43

Jimmy DiLeonardo and Paul Palmeri traveled to Italy together in 1924.

Michael DiLeonardo knew Giuseppe Traina, who he called "Don Piddu", to have served as an advocate for Salvatore D'Aquila's relatives in the years following the *capo dei capi*'s murder. This is consistent with Nicola Gentile,

who described Traina as an unrelenting D'Aquila loyalist who covertly worked against Joe Masseria's national leadership during the early 1930s while remaining diplomatic in his open interactions with these rival figures. Though the details of these various meetings and their corresponding politics are not known to Michael DiLeonardo generations later, the nature of these intertwined national relationships in early Cosa Nostra are not lost on him. What is revelatory to us was common knowledge in the Sicilian-American mafia subculture he grew up in. It was casual conversation among Gambino members who shared roots in the old D'Aquila regime.

Further evidence of D'Aquila representatives being sent to Palermo is a 1925 ship manifest showing Giuseppe Traina and future Family boss Vincenzo Mangano traveled to Italy together the year following DiLeonardo and Palmeri's trip. These events show that in addition to attending important meetings within the United States, Paolo Palmeri and Giuseppe Traina also served as American representatives to Sicily during the same era. Nicola Gentile and other contemporary sources confirm there was continual travel and high-level contact between the top leadership of American and Sicilian Cosa Nostra, though they had separate governance. The mid-1920s were significant because sources in Italy like Dr. Melchiorre Allegra said Salvatore D'Aquila sent emissaries to help with the brewing Palermo war and it appears Palmeri and DiLeonardo, then Traina and Mangano were among these D'Aquila representatives which is unsurprising given the known stature of each man in America.



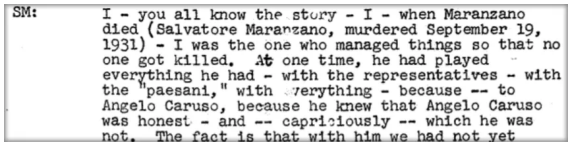
8	Traina	Giuseppe	43
9	Mangano	Vincenzo	38

Traina and Mangano visited Italy themselves in 1925.

Paolo Palmeri later moved to New Jersey and Michael DiLeonardo recalled Palmeri attempted to arrange the marriage of his daughter to Michael's uncle John DiLeonardo after World War II. Palmeri offered John a significant financial incentive, though Michael's uncle turned the offer down in favor of an engagement he made prior to serving in the war. The DiLeonardo-Palmeri marriage didn't pan out, but Paolo Palmeri's interest in crossing bloodlines with high-ranking members of New York Families is evident from intermarriage between the children of Palmeri and New Jersey Genovese *capodecina* Willie Moretti. Palmeri's son would marry a daughter of Moretti and Willie Moretti served as an acting member of his Family's administration at the time, an example among many of mafia clans marrying within their own peer group.

Paolo Palmeri was active in the Buffalo Castellammare del Golfo Society as the mutual aid group's "toastmaster", serving as a "principal speaker" for the club spanning many years. Endicott had its own branch, as did Brooklyn. These groups held joint statewide conferences for all of the New York Castellammare del Golfo Societies where Palmeri carried out his speaking duties even after moving to New Jersey. Other committee members for these state conferences were Endicott-based Pittston Family members Bartolo Guccia and Emanuele Zicari, the former from Castellammare like Palmeri and the latter from Nicola Gentile's hometown of Siculiana in Agrigento.

In addition to the underworld trial where John Bazzano's fate was decided, another meeting where Paolo Palmeri served as a high-level representative occurred the year previous, in 1931. Palmeri was arrested in Chicago with the Marlboro-connected Bonanno leader Angelo Caruso and local Chicago mafia figures on suspicion of kidnapping. The men were accused of participating in an ongoing kidnapping ransom scheme that targeted "100 victims". This accusation was an absurdity given Palmeri and Caruso's true purpose for being in Chicago.


SM: I - you all know the story - I - when Maranzano died (Salvatore Maranzano, murdered September 19, 1931) - I was the one who managed things so that no one got killed. At one time, he had played everything he had - with the representatives - with the "paesani," with everything - because -- to Angelo Caruso, because he knew that Angelo Caruso was honest - and -- capriciously -- which he was not. The fact is that with him we had not yet

Magaddino recalled Caruso's role in events after Maranzano's murder.

Follow-up investigation cleared Paolo Palmeri and Angelo Caruso of wrongdoing after their kidnapping arrest and they were released, though police were aware of rumors surrounding national underworld meetings in Chicago during this period, incorrectly devaluing these meetings as racket-motivated conferences of the "Al Capone mob". Many sources, including Nicola Gentile, Joe Bonanno, and FBI recordings of Stefano Magaddino confirm Al Capone graciously hosted these Chicago affairs but these were not "syndicate" meetings directly concerned with crime and rackets, rather they were high-level Cosa Nostra meetings where significant administrative decisions were made.

Major meetings were held in Chicago during and after the Castellammarese War in 1931. It was at one of these meetings in late 1931 that the national leadership established the Commission. Stefano Magaddino was recorded admitting he was "made" a member of the Commission in Chicago at this time and Paolo Palmeri may have attended as an aide to his boss and *compaesano* Magaddino. His status as an emissary to Sicily in 1924 and Chicago in 1931 adds significance to his presence at the John Bazzano affair in 1932, Palmeri

representing continuity between the pre-1931 national governing bodies and the early Commission era, his own status ongoing through this period of change.

Caruso (pictured) was arrested with Palmeri in Chicago.

Paolo Palmeri's November 1931 arrest in Chicago was two months after the murder of Salvatore Maranzano and Palmeri's fellow arrestee Angelo Caruso was serving as acting boss of the Bonanno Family following Maranzano's death. Caruso was said to have held this position for eight months and the FBI recordings of Stefano Magaddino similarly describe Caruso participating in these meetings. Even though Angelo Caruso was himself not Castellammarese nor even Trapanese, coming from Leonforte near the center of the island, his presence reinforces Paolo Palmieri's roots with the Bonanno Family and in turn he reinforces Caruso's place as head of a Castellammare-dominated Family in New York City. Ciro Gallo's arrest with Palmeri in 1932 brings another Bonanno member into these high-level activities, Gallo not from Trapani but nonetheless a formal signpost that reminds us the Bonanno Family was relevant to these events outside of the Castellammarese alone, much as Angelo Caruso did a year earlier.

Though his profession as an undertaker was grim, Paolo Palmeri was a charismatic personality as is evident from his "toastmaster" role at *compaesani* mutual aid affairs and his duties as a high-level mafia representative in Sicily, Chicago, and New York in 1924, 1931, and 1932. The choice of "Paolino" Palmeri as a Buffalo representative for these important mafia meetings potentially informs us about the personality types selected for these duties. Charisma is a factor in mafia politics, as it is in any form of government. In addition to these examples, Paolo Palmeri served in a mediator capacity during a visit to Cleveland in the mid-1920s according to Nicola Gentile where he helped arbitrate a dispute between local boss Giuseppe Lonardo and Salvatore Todaro, the latter identified by Lonardo's son Angelo as the Family *consigliere* at one time.

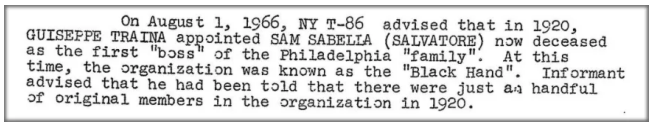
Palmeri was a dignitary inside and outside of Cosa Nostra.

Descriptions of similar meetings in Joe Bonanno and Nicola Gentile's autobiographies illustrate how charisma was valuable currency in Cosa Nostra, figures like Salvatore Maranzano gaining incredible political momentum through performative speeches. Though Maranzano was known for his explosive outbursts, leaping on tables and proclaiming what Stefano Magaddino described as "speculations", descriptions of other national administrators like Giuseppe Traina show a more careful and considerate navigation of the political climate.

Michael DiLeonardo's knowledge of Giuseppe Traina's *consigliere* position under Salvatore D'Aquila is consistent with Nicola Gentile's description of Traina, who Gentile says operated at the highest levels of national politics in the 1920s and the Belmontese Gambino leader served as one of the top mediators during the Castellammarese War between 1930-1931. Though Gentile doesn't identify the exact position Giuseppe Traina held in the Family at the time, Gentile described Traina serving as acting *capo dei capi* for Salvatore D'Aquila during earlier *Assemblea Generale* meetings, including a 1920s underworld affair again involving Pittsburgh. Traina was also asked to chair a peace committee during the Castellammarese War that included Gentile and this group, though unmentioned by other sources, played a pivotal role in bringing the war to a close.

Traina also had close ties to another Pennsylvania city where he exercised authority and offered administrative guidance, as noted earlier. Giuseppe Traina's *compaesani* in Philadelphia held high-ranking positions in their local Family for decades and sources confirm Traina served as a designated mediator, advisor, and national representative for the Philadelphia leadership as early as 1919 or 1920. This arrangement continued until at least 1970. Traina was reported to have been involved in the election of early Philadelphia boss Salvatore Sabella as well as that of Angelo Bruno nearly 40 years later, even remaining influential for over a decade after that as evidenced by FBI informants and recordings of Bruno himself. Sabella was from Castellammare del Golfo like Paolo Palmeri while Bruno was from Villalba, a neighboring *comune* to the Buffalo-connected Vallelunga in Caltanissetta and Angelo

Bruno's first cousin Calogero Sinatra served as boss of Vallelunga for a time in the early 1960s.


On August 1, 1966, NY T-86 advised that in 1920, GUISEPPE TRAINA appointed SAM SABELLA (SALVATORE) now deceased as the first "boss" of the Philadelphia "family". At this time, the organization was known as the "Black Hand". Informant advised that he had been told that there were just a handful of original members in the organization in 1920.

Sources were aware of Traina's longstanding influence in Philadelphia.

Though a Philadelphia FBI source indicated Giuseppe Traina helped select Salvatore Sabella as the first local mafia boss, other accounts assert there was already an organized Cosa Nostra presence in the city. Nicola Gentile said in his memoir that his Cosa Nostra induction took place in Philadelphia in the first years of the 20th century and though Gentile doesn't say who or what this Family consisted of, this initiation provided him with formal recognition throughout the United States and Sicily for the rest of his life, hardly a loose-knit "Black Hand" gang as contemporary coverage often framed Cosa Nostra.

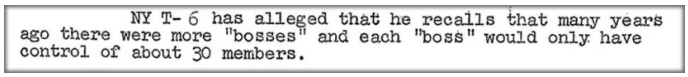
Senior Philadelphia member and FBI informant Harry Riccobene was inducted in 1927 and told the FBI there were multiple Philadelphia Families earlier on that were eventually combined into one regional Family. He echoed this in extensive interviews with Philadelphia mafia historian Celeste Morello decades later, identifying early bosses and members of separate Families whose small membership was formed along *compaesani* lines derived from Sicily. One of these organizations descended from his hometown of Castrogiovanni and included Empire Yeast's Antonino Calio, mentioned earlier.

Calio was a partner in the Philadelphia branch of Empire Yeast.

Harry Riccobene's father was a Philadelphia member prior to 1920 and he traced his mafia heritage back to Sicily. Riccobene specifically said his father was a member in Philadelphia before Salvatore Sabella was boss. His information suggests Sabella was not the first Cosa Nostra boss in Philadelphia, but the first *rappresentante* of a unified Philadelphia Family after these smaller groups merged together. One of the original Philadelphia Families identified by Riccobene via Celeste Morello was comprised of members from Giuseppe Traina's hometown of Belmonte Mezzagno and a

number of these men would hold the rank of *capodecina* simultaneously under later bosses, including the Cappellos and Scafidis who worked with Traina through Empire Yeast.

The son of one Belmontese captain was Rocco Scafidi, an inducted member who cooperated with the FBI from the 1960s through much of the 1970s. Shortly after his early 1950s induction he was shelved for various infractions, including an unsanctioned murder. An underworld trial was held where a visiting Giuseppe Traina successfully bargained for Scafidi's life. Scafidi's membership was later reinstated at a ceremony (note he was not re-inducted) and he told the FBI his uncle Joe Scafidi, Rocco's *capodecina*, wept "tears of joy". Rocco Scafidi's brother Salvatore, another Family member, managed the Philadelphia branch of Empire Yeast and an FBI report shows the younger Scafidis called Giuseppe Traina "uncle".

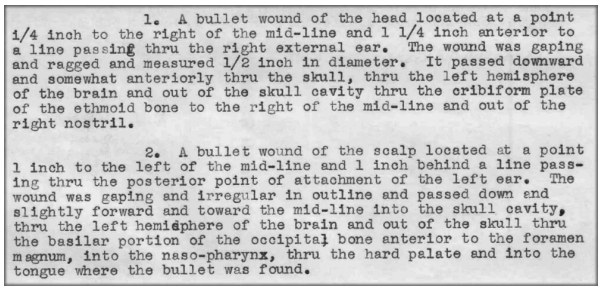

NY T- 6 has alleged that he recalls that many years ago there were more "bosses" and each "boss" would only have control of about 30 members.

Riccobene consistently claimed early Philadelphia had multiple Families.

A similar merging of organizations took place in Chicago, where a separate Chicago Heights Family was combined with the main Chicago Family after the Chicago Heights leaders were killed, with indications the same process played out in Gary, Indiana, where a small contemporary Family allegedly existed. Nicola Gentile confirmed Chicago Heights under Filippo Piazza was a separate Family from the main Chicago group and later FBI investigation shows continuity between this earlier group and a Chicago Heights *decina* under the Chicago Family. The murdered Chicago Heights leaders were from Caccamo, the same hometown as Pittsburgh *rappresentante* Stefano Monastero who was shot to death several years later. The Caccamese bosses in both cities were killed in 1926 and 1929, respectively, paralleling the violence directed toward mafia leaders from Palazzo Adriano and Burgio in Colorado and St. Louis just years earlier.

One of the early Philadelphia *compaesani*-based Families identified by Harry Riccobene was made up of men from Caccamo. A man Riccobene identified as the former boss, Giorgio Catania, was killed in Philadelphia in 1928. Though Catania was simply a powerful member under Salvatore Sabella by this time, he was described as having significant stature under boss Sabella, as one would expect of a former *rappresentante*. The successive murders of Caccamese leaders in Chicago Heights, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia between 1926 and 1929 were all attributed to local motivations but it's indicative of a larger political conflict involving *compaesani* that was national in scope. The Chicago Heights Family was merged with another Family following the murder

of their boss, while in Philadelphia the former *rappresentante* of a small separate Family was killed some years after his group was combined with other local Families. That alone is politically significant. Though his murder was of course unrelated to these events, the father of murdered Pittsburgh boss Stefano Monastero, Pietro, was one of the mafiosi killed by an angry mob in New Orleans during the infamous 1891 lynching.



1. A bullet wound of the head located at a point 1/4 inch to the right of the mid-line and 1 1/4 inch anterior to a line passing thru the right external ear. The wound was gaping and ragged and measured 1/2 inch in diameter. It passed downward and somewhat anteriorly thru the skull, thru the left hemisphere of the brain and out of the skull cavity thru the cribiform plate of the ethmoid bone to the right of the mid-line and out of the right nostril.

2. A bullet wound of the scalp located at a point 1 inch to the left of the mid-line and 1 inch behind a line passing thru the posterior point of attachment of the left ear. The wound was gaping and irregular in outline and passed down and slightly forward and toward the mid-line into the skull cavity, thru the left hemisphere of the brain and out of the skull thru the basilar portion of the occipital bone anterior to the foramen magnum, into the naso-pharynx, thru the hard palate and into the tongue where the bullet was found.

Monastero & ranking *compaesani* were killed between 1926 and 1929.

No matter the evolution of Philadelphia's Cosa Nostra organization, Giuseppe Traina is linked to their politics going back to Salvatore Sabella's rise as boss in 1920. Salvatore Sabella was from Castellammare del Golfo and came from Brooklyn, where he was related to the dominant Bonanno clans. The politics are built into this arrangement given Sabella's ties to Nicolo Schiro in New York and Giuseppe Traina's position with *capo dei capi* Salvatore D'Aquila. If Giuseppe Traina was already representing D'Aquila in Philadelphia by 1920, it means he likely came to power in the Gambino Family in the 1910s and thus had decades of experience in national mafia administration by the time he was arrested with Ciro Gallo in 1932.

Extensive cooperation and FBI wiretapping in Philadelphia during the 1960s shows numerous examples where Angelo Bruno continued to defer to Giuseppe Traina when it came to matters of political importance, especially concerning Bruno's own internal Family politics. This is especially significant because Angelo Bruno was not only a Family *rappresentante* but also a Commission member during the 1960s. There is no documented instance where Traina is said to have influenced or directed crime, rackets, or business in Philadelphia beyond his involvement with Empire Yeast. His hands-on relationship with Philadelphia lasted for at least fifty years and every interaction we know of was political in nature yet derived from his relationship to *compaesani* in that city even though his influence went beyond that faction alone.

Though Traina was "demoted" to the position of *capodecina* by 1931, there is numerous evidence he remained a fixture among the national leadership until the early 1970s, dying in 1979 just three years short of 100-years-old. There is

confirmation he was still active within Philadelphia politics in his late 80s. His name should be mentioned alongside all mafia leaders who became household names in later decades, though his ability to avoid significant attention from the public speaks to his manner of operation. Giuseppe Traina was not nearly as obscure as Ciro Gallo but despite Traina's stature he is never referenced in mainstream coverage of American mafia history. Traina's story provides insight into the American mafia's earlier governing bodies in addition to the 1932 John Bazzano meeting-turned-murder.

A Transition Between Governing Bodies

It's significant that despite the Commission having been formed nearly a year previous, the 1932 underworld trial of John Bazzano closely mirrored pre-Commission governing bodies mentioned by earlier sources. Nicola Gentile described the American mafia utilizing two separate but complementary political bodies prior to the Commission: the *Gran Consiglio* and *Assemblea Generale*. A 1909 letter written by early 1900s *capo dei capi* Giuseppe Morello and addressed to newly-crowned Chicago boss Rosario DiSpenza from Ciminna was obtained by the American Secret Service, Morello confirming the existence of a national *Consiglio* and *Assemblea Generale* even earlier than Gentile's account. Sicilian *pentito* Dr. Melchiorre Allegra also referred to an *Assemblea Generale* in contemporary Sicily.

Though the finer details of these two administrative bodies is lost to us, Giuseppe Morello briefly explained the different functions they served. He stated members of the *Gran Consiglio* could attend meetings of the *Assemblea Generale*, but unlike the *Assemblea*, the *Gran Consiglio* members could only observe the meeting and not interfere or cast votes. Apparently the *Assemblea Generale* was utilized for democratic purposes while the *Consiglio* was there for observation. The name suggests it was advisory in nature.

Early Gambino Family figures Nicola Gentile (L) and Umberto Valenti (R).

As Nicola Gentile's account confirms, these national meetings utilized regional representatives who voted for a given outcome. None of the high-level meetings described by Gentile concerned rackets, business, or financial

matters, rather they involved the very core of Cosa Nostra: life, death, and their corresponding politics. Cosa Nostra's internal laws were navigated by its own highly-skilled "lawyers". Though Gentile notes a degree of manipulation on the part of *capo dei capi* Salvatore D'Aquila, he cites examples where democracy was upheld, Gentile himself successfully challenging rulings influenced by D'Aquila and his *sostituto* (substitute) Giuseppe Traina.

These early references to national governing bodies shatter the mythology that Cosa Nostra first became more democratic and nationally organized in 1931 after the murder of Salvatore Maranzano, the final *capo dei capi*. The first confirmed *capo dei capi* Giuseppe Morello uses virtually identical terminology for these bodies as Nicola Gentile, describing both a national *Consiglio* and *Assemblea Generale* consistently in language and application. Morello and Gentile's writings about these bodies confirm these processes were in place from the beginning of the 1900s until 1931 before the "*Commissione*" was put in place.

The Commission wasn't so much created, rather it evolved from earlier structures no less sophisticated. The Commission in fact appears to be a simplification of more complex processes that no longer worked for the sprawling, increasingly Americanized Cosa Nostra. I suspect the merging of smaller Families into larger *mandamento*-like regional Families contributed to this transition just as the actual *mandamento* system in the Sicilian mafia achieved similar results when it came to regional governance, the *capimandamenti* within a province then electing a *capoprovincia* over the *mandamenti* within their provincial jurisdiction. Sources like Dr. Melchiorre Allegra between 1910s and 1930s Sicily and the accounts documented by Antonino Cutrera in *La Mafia e i Mafiosi* in the year 1900 confirm the early existence of the *capoprovincia* position which could inform our understanding of the earlier American governing bodies, particularly the *Gran Consiglio*.

The Sicilian *mandamento* system was created to manage regional politics.

Whereas the various *capiprovince* represented the literal geography they lived in, there is reason to believe the early American mafia utilized national leaders in an abstracted form of this role. During his time as an apparent member of the *Gran Consiglio*, Nicola Gentile primarily represented his extended *compaesani* from Agrigento province and adjacent parts of western Sicily. He was thus like a *capoprovincia* but his "province" was distributed in clumps and cells spread throughout the United States with roots in his native Sicilian region. The concerns of other figures with Gentile's stature may have similarly related to their own extended network of regional *compaesani*, there being numerous other accounts confirming that early American mafiosi were primarily concerned with their own townsmen and provincial confederates. This was true of Giuseppe Traina who directly concerned himself in the affairs of the Philadelphia Family, particularly his *compaesani* from Belmonte Mezzagno.

Although this comparison doesn't map perfectly onto Gentile's account, his national fiefdom including relationships he made in the United States with men from other provinces independent of Gentile's origins, this may have been the original framework the pre-Commission bodies utilized and the Americanization of the mafia — which was well underway by the time Nicola Gentile gained power — led Cosa Nostra to separate itself from this frame even though echoes of it continued. The Bazzano controversy and its corresponding politics show that non-Sicilians used a similar model. The Gambino and Genovese Families sat on the Commission and included a Calabrian and Campanian underboss, respectively, who saw the national Calabrian and Campanian networks as their "territory". As something of an abstracted *capoprovincia* over Campanian mafiosi in the American mafia, Vito Genovese advocated on behalf of the deceased Volpe brothers and their allies while Anastasia served in a similar capacity within the Calabrese network that John Bazzano belonged to.

Adding to the intrigue of John Bazzano's 1932 underworld trial is that it closely follows descriptions of these earlier ruling bodies as much as it does the Commission. Just as Giuseppe Morello and Nicola Gentile described national representatives casting votes at the earlier meetings, the presence of regional representatives at the John Bazzano trial indicates there was a similarly democratic component to deciding his fate. Accounts of his murder indicate Vito Genovese influenced the outcome, though it was not completely predetermined and a decision was likely made during the underworld trial based on the manner in which John Bazzano conducted his defense. Bazzano's killers may have been sequestered nearby, waiting for the right prompt before carrying out his execution.

Another parallel between the pre-Commission governing bodies and the John Bazzano affair is the attendance of multiple 1932 arrestees at earlier national meetings. Along with his attendance at an earlier Pittsburgh-related *Assemblea* on behalf of Salvatore D'Aquila, Giuseppe Traina presided over a 1928 Cleveland meeting at the Hotel Statler following D'Aquila's murder, which like the Bazzano situation and the 1957 Apalachin meeting was a high-level affair interrupted by police. A contemporary newspaper article described the 1928 Cleveland bust as a meeting of the mafia's "Grand Council", an interesting coincidence given Gentile and Morello talked of the *Gran Consiglio*. The media may have been lucky with their language, or perhaps a comment was overheard among those rounded up during the arrests.

Mangano was arrested in 1928 with Traina.

Future Gambino boss Vincenzo Mangano, murdered by Albert Anastasia in 1951 with his brother Philip, attended the 1928 Cleveland meeting with Giuseppe Traina, showing in addition to representing the American mafia during their 1925 trip to Italy, they paired up as national representatives within the United States. Mangano was noted for his connections to Salvatore D'Aquila, but unlike Giuseppe Traina, Nicola Gentile's account of Vincenzo Mangano shows him to be a sympathizer of the men who killed D'Aquila. Though Mangano was not arrested for the John Bazzano murder in 1932 alongside his affiliates Albert Anastasia and Giuseppe Traina, his involvement in John Bazzano's underworld trial is guaranteed given he was a Commission member and both his underboss and a top *capodecina* were arrested, the latter a former *consigliere*.

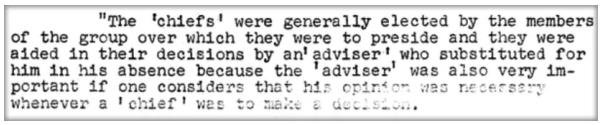
Joe Profaci was another Commission member who wasn't arrested but would have surely attended the Bazzano proceedings as a New York boss and Commission member. Profaci was a 1928 Cleveland attendee, though like Mangano he is not believed to have been a *rappresentante* yet at the time, his son Salvatore recorded in 1962 stating that the elder Profaci had been boss for 31 years at that time — around the end of the Castellammarese War. Names like Profaci, Mangano, and Traina at least demonstrate that involvement in national politics at the highest level was not new to them post-1931 and they brought with them an existing understanding of the rules, protocol, decorum,

and political strategies that began far earlier and continued into the new era. Ciro Gallo was never a Cosa Nostra leader and his arrival to the United States through Mexico and California just five years earlier remove him from the continuity evident among his fellow arrestees in the Bazzano murder but he would have been familiar with these processes and likely became acquainted with them first in Sicily.

Carlo Gambino Long Before Carlo Gambino

Families will sometimes go significant periods of time after the death of a boss before electing a new *rappresentante officiale*, designating an acting boss who is often later confirmed as a permanent *rappresentante*. Gaspare Messina of Boston is evidence that interim positions applied to the *capo dei capi* as well given he was chosen to hold the position temporarily after Joe Masseria was deposed during the final months of the Castellammarese War. Masseria surfaced earlier as the new *capo dei capi* following Salvatore D'Aquila's murder and Manfredi Mineo, a fellow Palermitano, would become the Gambino Family boss, but we don't know how soon these confirmations took place. The Cleveland meeting occurred just two months after D'Aquila's murder and the national leadership was in transition.

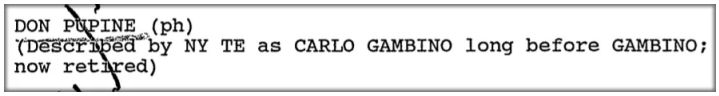
The Sicilian Sangiorgi Report identified leading members of the Palermo Families in 1898 and in many cases a *sostituto* was identified who could stand in for the Family boss. Dr. Melchiorre Allegra specifically said the Family *consigliere* was often the *sostituto*, a process described similarly by Bill Bonanno who said the *consigliere* was traditionally the acting boss, an apparent synonym for *sostituto*. Nicola Gentile used this word in his memoir, stating Giuseppe Traina was Salvatore D'Aquila's *sostituto* as *capo dei capi*. The term appears to be identical to what we would now call an "acting" leadership position and its translation of "substitute" fits this interpretation.


"The 'chiefs' were generally elected by the members of the group over which they were to preside and they were aided in their decisions by an 'adviser' who substituted for him in his absence because the 'adviser' was also very important if one considers that his opinion was necessary whenever a 'chief' was to make a decision.

Allegra described the *consigliere* as a substitute for the boss.

As Salvatore D'Aquila's *consigliere* and *sostituto*, Giuseppe Traina may have served as the Gambino Family's interim leader at the time of the 1928 Cleveland meeting at the Hotel Statler given D'Aquila had been killed only a short time earlier. Traina appears to have been the highest ranking member at the meeting given his earlier role as acting *capo dei capi*. Nicola Gentile's account of Giuseppe Traina presiding over national meetings in the years leading up to 1928 all the way through 1931 all but confirm his preeminent role

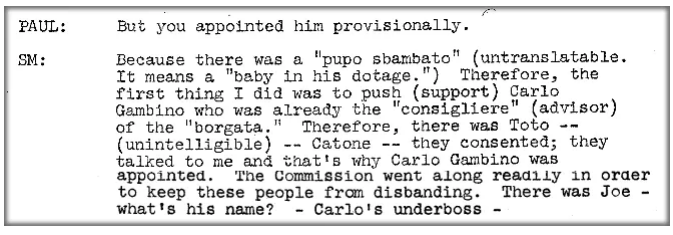
at the Cleveland meeting. Joe Bonanno insisted in his book that the *capo dei capi* was originally intended to be a *capo consigliere*, which perfectly describes the role Giuseppe Traina may have had, official or not. Though he never states it outright, Nicola Gentile's account also suggests Traina was the highest authority in the Gambino Family following Manfredi Mineo's death in 1930 and this continued provisionally until the end of the war when Vincenzo Mangano was elected, Traina and Mangano both being candidates for the acting boss position at that time although I tend to favor the former based on Gentile's description of their respective conduct.


DON PUPINE (ph)
(described by NY TE as CARLO GAMBINO long before GAMBINO;
now retired)

1963 description of "Don Pupine" [sic], a retired Gambino Family leader.

A 1963 FBI source familiar with the Gambino Arcuri crew identified a "Don Pupine" [sic] as an elderly figure who visited a club belonging to the Gambino Family's Arcuris, a powerful father and son from Alessandria della Rocca who would both hold the rank of *capodecina*. The source said this man was "Carlo Gambino long before [Carlo] Gambino" who was "now retired". The name "Don Pupine" is undoubtedly a diminutive of the name Giuseppe, which produces nicknames like "Peppino", "Pinuzzo", "Pino", and "Piddu", sometimes used interchangeably for the same man.

In addition to being the Gambino Family boss at the time of the FBI report, Stefano Magaddino's FBI wiretaps and Bill Bonanno's final book identified Carlo Gambino as the Family *consigliere* prior to becoming acting boss and then *rappresentante officiale*, a process Bill Bonanno says took years before Gambino was officially recognized as the permanent boss. Magaddino said Gambino was appointed by the Commission as acting boss because of his role as *consigliere* given the Gambino Family was on the verge of breaking apart following factionalism after 1932 Bazzano murder arrestee Albert Anastasia's own 1957 murder.

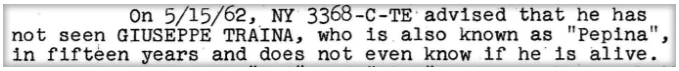

PAUL: But you appointed him provisionally.

SM: Because there was a "pupo sbambato" (untranslatable. It means a "baby in his dotage.") Therefore, the first thing I did was to push (support) Carlo Gambino who was already the "consigliere" (advisor) of the "borgata." Therefore, there was Toto -- (unintelligible) -- Catone -- they consented; they talked to me and that's why Carlo Gambino was appointed. The Commission went along readily in order to keep these people from disbanding. There was Joe - what's his name? - Carlo's underboss -

Gambino was *consigliere* in 1957 when he was appointed acting boss.

Giuseppe Traina was observed visiting the Arcuris' place of business during the time "Don Pupine" was referenced by the informant. Michael DiLeonardo

knew the Trainas to be incredibly close to the Arcuris, just as they were close to the DiLeonardos. Though Traina was never the official boss of the Gambino Family, he was the *consigliere* and acting *capo dei capi* under D'Aquila and certainly qualifies as a "Carlo Gambino long before [Carlo] Gambino". He matches the informant's description almost perfectly and the name "Don Pupine" is similar to Michael DiLeonardo's reference to Traina as "Don Piddu", a nickname derived from his given name Giuseppe. Further confirmation is a Colombo Family informant who told the FBI Giuseppe Traina was known as "Pepina", no doubt a phonetic translation of "Peppino".


On 5/15/62, NY 3368-C-TE advised that he has not seen GIUSEPPE TRAINA, who is also known as "Pepina", in fifteen years and does not even know if he is alive.

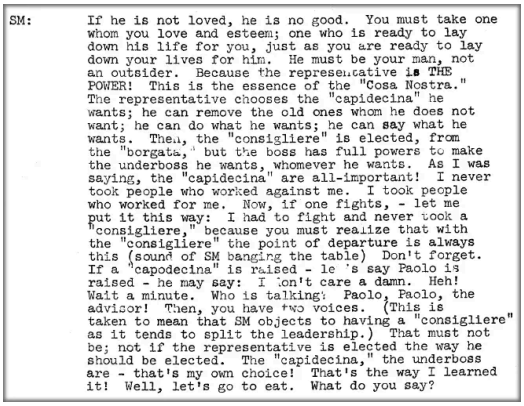
Giuseppe Traina was known as "Peppino".

The Sangiorgi Report's identification of a *sostituto* position in Palermo who served as acting boss for the *rappresentante* fits both Giuseppe Traina and Carlo Gambino's roles, suggesting there was in fact an early trend or perhaps guideline in Cosa Nostra to appoint the *consigliere* as acting boss when needed as Dr. Allegra and Bill Bonanno stated explicitly. As Stefano Magaddino, Bill Bonanno, and other sources confirm, the *consigliere* was elected by the membership and not appointed by the boss as other ranking positions were. Magaddino and other sources have said the underboss and captains are technically demoted when the boss position changes, though we know this is mostly a formality and most captains and sometimes the underboss retain their position.

The *consigliere* position interestingly isn't supposed to change when a new boss takes over. This plays into its nature as an elected position outside of the top-down hierarchy. In response to the 1988 murder of a Colombo *consigliere*, Colombo informant Greg Scarpa told the FBI it was rare for a *consigliere* to be killed. Available evidence supports this, though in contrast to this trend Joe Bonanno is noted for the murder of one man who once held this rank prior to Giovanni Tartamella, the Alcamese Sebastiano "Frank Italiano" Mano, and another, Filippo Rappa from Borgetto, also died suspiciously during Bonanno's reign. Giuseppe Traina survived his term as *consigliere* despite Salvatore D'Aquila's 1928 murder and he may have kept the position until 1931.

Stefano Magaddino was recorded in the same January 1965 meeting referenced above telling Bonanno Family leaders he never allowed a *consigliere* in his Family because of its elected nature. Because the boss was an elected position, too, Magaddino felt this should be sufficient representation of the membership and the *consigliere* position thus created an undesirable political divide. Magaddino, who was originally inducted into the Bonanno

Family under Nicolo Schiro, indicates he "learned" this approach to mafia administration earlier on in his mafia tenure. On the same recording, he discusses his early *rappresentante*, no doubt Schiro, teaching him about local mafia politics after his induction in the mid-1910s. This could tell us the Bonanno Family historically didn't use the *consigliere* position and perhaps Joe Bonanno, like his cousin Magaddino, took similar issue with this position early on in his reign which would explain the murder and questionable death of successive *consiglieri* in the Bonanno Family.



SM: If he is not loved, he is no good. You must take one whom you love and esteem; one who is ready to lay down his life for you, just as you are ready to lay down your lives for him. He must be your man, not an outsider. Because the representative is THE POWER! This is the essence of the "Cosa Nostra." The representative chooses the "capidecina" he wants; he can remove the old ones whom he does not want; he can do what he wants; he can say what he wants. Then, the "consigliere" is elected, from the "borgata," but the boss has full powers to make the underboss he wants, whomever he wants. As I was saying, the "capidecina" are all-important! I never took people who worked against me. I took people who worked for me. Now, if one fights, - let me put it this way: I had to fight and never took a "consigliere," because you must realize that with the "consigliere" the point of departure is always this (sound of SM banging the table) Don't forget. If a "capodecina" is raised - le 's say Paolo is raised - he may say: I don't care a damn. Heh! Wait a minute. Who is talking: Paolo, Paolo, the advisor! Then, you have two voices. (This is taken to mean that SM objects to having a "consigliere" as it tends to split the leadership.) That must not be; not if the representative is elected the way he should be elected. The "capidecina," the underboss are - that's my own choice! That's the way I learned it! Well, let's go to eat. What do you say?

The domineering Magaddino refused to share power with a *consigliere*.

Giuseppe Traina may well have been an early "Carlo Gambino" who operated in a similar capacity to Gambino in 1928 when Salvatore D'Aquila was killed. Traina was D'Aquila's *consigliere* and *sostituto*, retaining equivalent influence if not rank as evidenced by Nicola Gentile's account of Traina in the early 1930s. Just as Stefano Magaddino said *consigliere* Carlo Gambino was appointed acting boss to hold the Family together when Albert Anastasia was killed, Traina may have similarly kept the former D'Aquila organization intact while the controversial Manfredi Mineo and Joe Masseria assumed power. In turn, Traina may have acted again in this role when Mineo himself was killed in 1930.

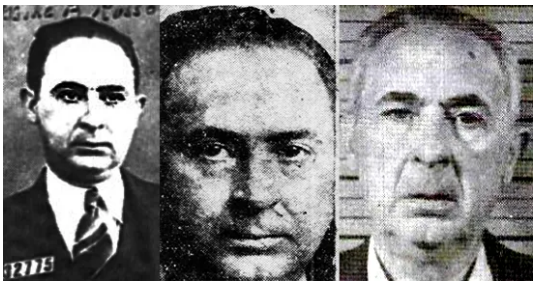
Cosa Nostra politics, like the American legal system, are a story of precedent and we see similar outcomes play out over significant periods of time. Whatever his official status was, Traina was not the only attendee arrested in both Cleveland and New York in connection with these 1928 and 1932 meetings. Sam DiCarlo was cuffed for representing Buffalo at both the 1928 Cleveland meeting and the 1932 Bazzano trial in New York and Michael Russo from Pittsburgh was also detained at both meetings.

Representation is Fluid Yet Fixed

At the time of the 1928 Cleveland meeting at the Hotel Statler, Michael Russo lived in New Jersey, though he attended the 1932 John Bazzano meeting while

living in Pittsburgh. Russo's role as a high-level representative apparently transcended his residence and he served in a similar capacity from both New Jersey and Pittsburgh between 1928 and 1932, depending on where he was living. There is no evidence Russo was ever a formal *rappresentante* or member of any Family's administration but he was at least a delegate more than once.

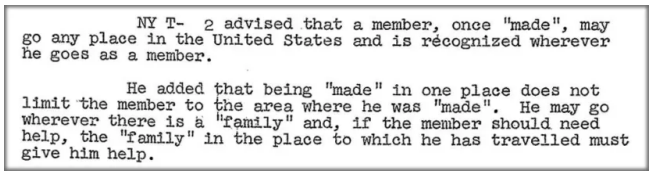
The Genovese Family later had a designated *messaggero* who carried messages to the Chicago Family and back, so perhaps well-connected individuals in the network were selected for this type of role regardless of time and place, some individuals acting as a *messaggero* in national affairs as a result of their connections to different Families and locations. We know not all attendees at these national meetings were bosses, but they were all representing a Family somewhere. Michael Russo could have retained affiliation with one single group and simply operated as a remote member in another city or he carried his stature with him while transferring to different Families. Nicola Gentile and others have documented this arrangement, Gentile himself being an apparent member of the *Gran Consiglio* and holding administrative ranks in different cities depending on where he lived while attending national meetings.



Russo in 1928, 1932, and an unspecified later year.

A vague reference by Sam Rizzo DeCavalcante on a 1960s FBI recording cites a situation where a "Mickey Russo" sought assistance from the Commission, a political process documented in other accounts where a member who has a falling out with Family leaders can seek national intervention. A similar incident helped spark the Bonanno Family war in 1964 in which the Castellammarese Gaspare DiGregorio was placed under Commission protection for a time. However, DeCavalcante was discussing Trenton mafia activity and may have been referring to Trenton-based Gambino member Nicky Russo, which could have easily sounded like "Mickey" on tape. Michael Russo lived in Iselin, near Elizabeth, but he has never been formally linked to the DeCavalcantes nor any other Family for that matter.

Michael Russo's FBN file describes him as "frequenting" Ohio, Boston, Buffalo, and Florida in addition to his residence in New Jersey. Pittsburgh researcher James Barber shared information showing Russo's involvement in those cities occurred prior to and during the period surrounding the John Bazzano murder, citing Russo's presence in New Jersey, Boston, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland. He also shared a case after the John Bazzano murder where Russo and a younger brother of the murdered Volpes were arrested for transporting an underage woman out of state. The woman refused a marriage to this Volpe brother, Joseph, so the affair was of a personal nature but shows he was acquainted with the Volpes and potentially invested in the outcome of the Bazzano affair given it concerned the murders of several Volpe brothers.



NY T- 2 advised that a member, once "made", may go any place in the United States and is recognized wherever he goes as a member.

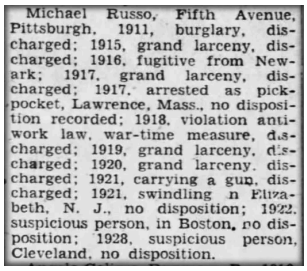
He added that being "made" in one place does not limit the member to the area where he was "made". He may go wherever there is a "family" and, if the member should need help, the "family" in the place to which he has travelled must give him help.

Geography was not a constraint in Cosa Nostra.

His role as a national representative carried between his residences in both New Jersey and Pittsburgh, an arrangement evident with other mafiosi like Nicola Gentile, but in addition to those two locations he apparently lived on New York's Lower East Side in 1917 and his arrest record shows he was primarily active in Newark proper between 1911 and 1917 before being picked up for pickpocketing in Lawrence, Massachussetts. His crime spree continued in Elizabeth from the late 1910s into the early 1920s and in 1922 he was detained as a "suspicious person" in Boston. He returned to New Jersey after his time in Pittsburgh during the early '30s, again living in Iselin south of Elizabeth where he had a residence prior to Pennsylvania

Russo's presence in Boston and Pittsburgh complements his heritage in Cerda, there being established networks of mafiosi from the eastern Palermo coast in these locations. We can be fairly certain he was a member of the Pittsburgh Family when he attended the 1932 Bazzano meeting but where he belonged in New Jersey is an open question. He lived near Elizabeth and had arrests in Elizabeth proper where the DeCavalcantes were headquartered but Genovese member Joseph Stassi also spent time living in Elizabeth and his heritage in Montemaggiore Belsito neighbors Russo's hometown of Cerda. The Genovese Family's Lower East Side membership had other members from Cerda itself and neighboring towns, Michael Russo's residence on the Lower East Side even earlier in his life complementing these patterns. The Stassis too had a history in Manhattan, Joe Stassi and Russo's paths being similar in many respects. The Genovese Family is a strong candidate for Michael Russo's

affiliation but the Newark Family can't be ruled out either prior to its disbandment by the late 1930s.


Michael Russo, Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, 1911, burglary, discharged; 1915, grand larceny, discharged; 1916, fugitive from Newark; 1917, grand larceny, discharged; 1917, arrested as pickpocket, Lawrence, Mass., no disposition recorded; 1918, violation anti-work law, war-time measure, discharged; 1919, grand larceny, discharged; 1920, grand larceny, discharged; 1921, carrying a gun, discharged; 1921, swindling in Elizabeth, N. J., no disposition; 1922, suspicious person, in Boston, no disposition; 1928, suspicious person, Cleveland, no disposition.

Russo's arrest record placed him in various locations.

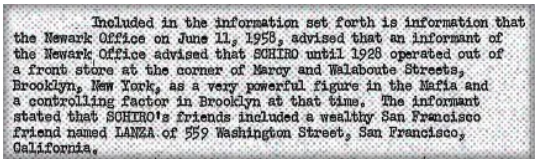
Though the FBN was lacking clarity when it came to the internal politics of Cosa Nostra, they carried Russo as a "powerful influence" earlier on who was in "semi-retirement" in later years. Michael Russo's appearance at these high-level meetings between 1928 and 1932 along with his broad travels and varied residences show him to be a mafia journeyman who carried his status with him, not unlike Nicola Gentile. As this article will later demonstrate, Ciro Gallo represents similar interconnectivity within the American mafia network across different locations even though the Bazzano situation is the only time he was personally linked to a political event of this scale.

As we learn more about the depth and complexity of early Cosa Nostra, which was certainly not "created" in 1931, it is clear none of these arrangements were arbitrary or random, nor was it based on a given member's stature as a "racketeer" or "organized crime" leader alone. Russo's heritage in Cerda placed him in Palermo's eastern coastal network that included towns like Bagheria, Trabia, Termini Imerese, and other surrounding *comuni*. In addition to other early Pittsburgh mafiosi sharing heritage in this region, this network was highly influential in numerous locations distributed across the United States as the American mafia developed.

When considering all of these factors, the 1932 Bazzano situation gives us a look into the transition from the earlier *Gran Consiglio* and *Assemblea Generale* bodies into the Commission as the lone central authority. The *capo dei capi* position was dissolved only a short time earlier and the Commission was a new power structure developed in its wake. The Bazzano affair is an indication they used elements of the previous structures as "training wheels" while the new system worked itself out. Though the idea of a national governing body was not new to Cosa Nostra and the Commission mirrored the *Gran Consiglio* and *Assemblea Generale* in many ways, we know there were distinct nuances to the Commission's processes. For example, most American Families were assigned to a specific *avvocato*, the term for Commission

members, and these relationships were based largely on enduring relationships.

The Los Angeles Family was represented by the Lucchese Family, with Los Angeles boss Ignazio "Jack" Dragna sharing Corleonese heritage with the Lucchese leadership. Dragna previously lived in New York where he closely associated with future members of this Family. A similar arrangement played out in San Francisco, whose boss Francesco Lanza from Castelbuono was a former Bonanno figure in New York closely tied to Nicolo Schiro, Schiro even witnessing the marriage of Lanza's son Anthony to the niece of Los Angeles Family leader Rosario Desimone. San Francisco was represented by the Bonanno Family on the Commission until Joe Bonanno was deposed, followed by Stefano Magaddino of Buffalo who had his own roots under Nicolo Schiro.

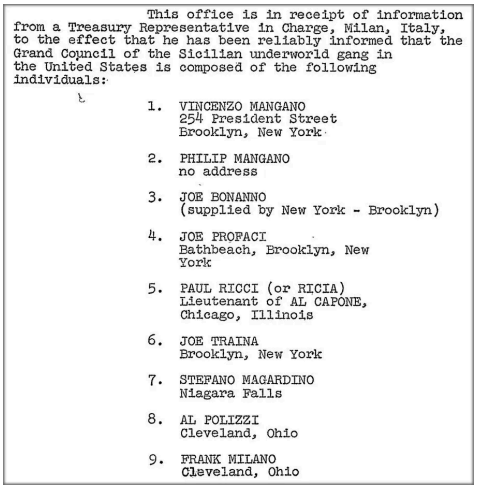

Included in the information set forth is information that the Newark Office on June 11, 1958, advised that an informant of the Newark Office advised that SCHIRO until 1928 operated out of a front store at the corner of Marcy and Walaboute Streets, Brooklyn, New York, as a very powerful figure in the Mafia and a controlling factor in Brooklyn at that time. The informant stated that SCHIRO's friends included a wealthy San Francisco friend named LANZA of 559 Washington Street, San Francisco, California.

San Francisco and Bonanno Family ties went back to Schiro and Lanza.

The Gambino Family represented the Tampa Family at one time, using *capodecina* Joe Arcuri as the designated liaison between the Gambino leadership and Tampa leaders. Much as Giuseppe Traina was the Gambino liaison to a Philadelphia Family that included his Belmonte Mezzagno *compaesani*, Arcuri was born in Tampa to parents from Alessandria della Rocca, heritage he shared with members of the Agrigento-dominated Tampa and DeCavalcante Families and he had close relationships to both of them. Other Commission relationships are inexplicable, especially later on, but the early Sicilian roots of these politics leave little room for interpretation.

Even though it technically occurred during the "Commission era", the 1932 underworld trial of John Bazzano shows strong *compaesani* representation and distinct traces of pre-1931 meetings that would become more faint in subsequent years. It is noteworthy the 1932 arrestees were all from New York State, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania, an indication this particular trial was not "national" but regional in scope. Eastern organizations would be the most heavily impacted by John Bazzano's murder and we only see East Coast representatives among the arrestees. One difference between Commission meetings and the *Assemblea Generale* is that the latter appears to have included a wide number of representatives from across the country while the Commission was limited to a small, much more exclusive group of national leaders. However, meetings like the Apalachin affair prove that larger, *Assemblea*-like meetings still occurred in the Commission era.

Further indication of continuity between the Commision and the *Gran Consiglio* and *Assemblea Generale* comes from Nicola Gentile, though this time from his cooperation with Italian authorities rather than his memoir. In a 1940 Italian Treasury report forwarded to the United States after Nicola Gentile's deportation for drug trafficking, Gentile described the "Grand Council" as the active governing body in America and listed the participants who sat on this body.



This office is in receipt of information from a Treasury Representative in Charge, Milan, Italy, to the effect that he has been reliably informed that the Grand Council of the Sicilian underworld gang in the United States is composed of the following individuals:

1. VINCENZO MANGANO
   254 President Street
   Brooklyn, New York
2. PHILIP MANGANO
   no address
3. JOE BONANNO
   (supplied by New York - Brooklyn)
4. JOE PROFACI
   Bathbeach, Brooklyn, New York
5. PAUL RICCI (or RICIA)
   Lieutenant of AL CAPONE,
   Chicago, Illinois
6. JOE TRAINA
   Brooklyn, New York
7. STEFANO MAGARDINO
   Niagara Falls
8. AL POLIZZI
   Cleveland, Ohio
9. FRANK MILANO
   Cleveland, Ohio

Gentile used the term "Grand Council" to refer to Commission members.

This was not a historic recollection of the 1920s *Gran Consiglio*, as the 1940 report listed the majority of known Commission members from the mid-late 1930s. Gentile listed men who became bosses during and after the formation of the Commission and included a few top aides, among them Giuseppe Traina, who Philadelphia informants described as their liaison to the Commission. That Nicola Gentile also included Traina on the list, by that time a *capodecina*, shows that Giuseppe Traina was still involved in national Cosa Nostra politics at the highest level throughout the 1930s, a detail supported by Traina's involvement in the 1932 John Bazzano affair. The attendance of figures like Michael Russo, Sam DiCarlo, and Paolo Palmeri at meetings before and after the formation of the Commission shows similar continuity like we see with Traina.

While sources who came of age in the "Commission era" saw the post-1931 governing body as a brand new idea, the 1940 Treasury report indicates Gentile saw the Commission as a more subtle evolution of the earlier bodies he participated in during the earlier 20th century, even using the term "Grand Council" (translated from *Gran Consiglio*) to describe the Commission to Italian investigators. The John Bazzano trial was a bridge between different eras of Cosa Nostra's self-government and gives us a unique view into its political structures and systems of representation during transition, plus it

introduces lesser-known and seemingly “small” figures like Ciro Gallo into a much larger, complex world that nonetheless recognized him as one of their own.

Gallo’s Role in the Bazzano Slaying

It is unclear what role, if any, all of the arrested men had in the underworld trial and murder, but some of the out of town arrestees were clearly in attendance due to the political implications the John Bazzano affair had for other Cosa Nostra groups, especially in Pennsylvania. Assuming law enforcement was correct in their allegations against those arrested, some of the men likely carried out Bazzano’s execution on behalf of the leadership, especially given the physical nature of the murder: strangulation and stabbing, then bagged disposal in Brooklyn.

A 1960s FBI source in Pittsburgh did report a rumor that the Commission members themselves all took turns stabbing Bazzano with icepicks when he failed to answer for himself at the meeting but without corroboration this description is over-the-top and it’s unlikely the American mafia’s top national leaders would collectively participate in a murder of this nature. John Bazzano's body being left in Brooklyn could indicate the participants in the murder itself were Brooklyn-based, like some of the arrestees. Bazzano’s actual killers were most likely ordinary “soldiers”, there also being no indication that “associates” were involved in the meeting nor the violence that followed.

Bonasera (L) and Oddo (R) were possible participants.

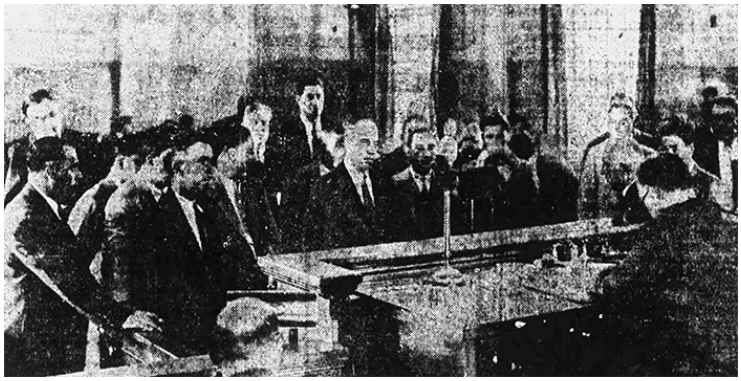
Arrestees Tony Bonasera and John Oddo would go on to become influential figures under Colombo boss Joe Profaci, Oddo confirmed as a senior *capodecina* in later years, but they were likely rank-and-file members at this time. Bonasera came from Vallelunga while Oddo was from Pietraperzia, their respective provinces of Caltanissetta and Enna sharing a degree of regional affinity and the men having an ongoing relationship for decades. The two men were suspects in previous mafia murders together in the years leading up to the Bazzano murder. One source even linked Bonasera to the 1930 murder of

Carmine Peraino, the son of suspected Colombo leader Giuseppe Peraino from Palermo who had been killed himself a short time earlier.

The regional background shared by the two Colombo men also extended to other attendees, including Santo Volpe and Angelo Polizzi from Pittston as well as Sam DiCarlo from Buffalo. In addition to being *compaesani*, Tony Bonasera and DiCarlo were in-laws which may have been another factor that influenced Bonasera's attendance. After fellow DiCarlo in-law Salvatore "Sam" Pieri was released from prison in 1963, it was reported that Tony Bonasera would potentially travel to Buffalo to help ease tensions between Pieri and his boss Stefano Magaddino, there being a long history of bad blood between Magaddino and the DiCarlo-Pieri faction that prompted some members of this clan to leave the area and transfer to other Families.

The Palazzese Ciro Gallo was another arrestee in the murder unlikely to have held a rank above soldier, suggesting his role was similarly more "hands-on". Bill Bonanno stated that Commission members attended national meetings with a designated aide and there is evidence this was true among some of the Bazzano arrestees. Angelo Polizzi presumably accompanied his boss Santo Volpe to the meeting and Pietro Giallombardo was a member of Giuseppe Traina's *decina*, so he could have attended as a companion of Traina, for example. No doubt other attendees were among those who evaded arrest and the Bonanno leadership was noticeably absent, opening the possibility that Gallo was simply an aide who got detained while the leader he accompanied did not. There is nothing about Ciro Gallo that suggests he would have been a likely companion of the contemporary Bonanno leadership, however, these aides in other known instances typically showing an obvious relationship to Family leaders or otherwise known to be proteges of the administration.

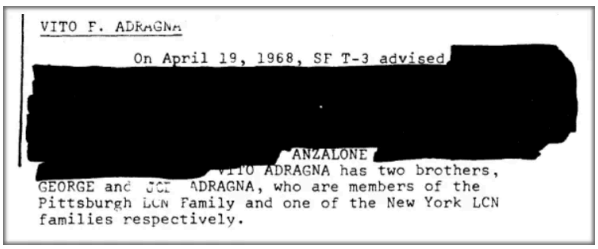
Given these three men lived in Brooklyn where Bazzano's body was discovered and their presence can't be otherwise contextualized in an administrative capacity, they may have been involved in these proceedings as part of the execution team. All of the arrestees were eventually released from custody and none would face charges for the killing, so the complete mechanics of the murder are still left to the imagination beyond Bazzano's gruesome condition. There is no obvious reason why Ciro Gallo should have been involved in a Commission matter of this nature, though the visiting Pittsburgh contingent hints at a connection between Gallo and Pittsburgh.



Arrestees in the 1932 Bazzano murder, Ciro Gallo among them.

The Frank Adragna from Pittsburgh who was arrested for the Bazzano murder alongside Ciro Gallo came from Alcamo, like Gallo's wife. Adragna's father Giuseppe (b. 1866) and at least three brothers were connected to the mafia in Williamsburg, Pittsburgh, and the California Bay Area in addition to having potential involvement with the mafia back in Alcamo; Frank's father Giuseppe Adragna and an uncle were reportedly involved in crime back in Sicily. A mysterious Pittsburgh member called "Joe l'Alcamese" is also referenced in Nicola Gentile's memoirs and was said to have been murdered around 1933. It was theorized in the October 2020 issue of *Informer Journal* that "Joe l'Alcamese" is Giuseppe Adragna, father of the many younger Adragnas who joined Cosa Nostra in various American locations.

One of the 1960s Bay Area FBI informants revealed that two of Giuseppe Adragna's sons were made, George in Pittsburgh and Joseph in NYC, while Vito was awaiting induction in San Jose as a proposed member on record with a former Pittsburgh member who transferred to San Jose. Frank Adragna is not mentioned by the informant, but his attendance at the Bazzano affair in 1932 is a strong indication he was a made member in Pittsburgh like his brother George. Frank was the older half-brother of the other Adragnas and died in 1962, several years before the full extent of the brothers' involvement in Cosa Nostra was known to the FBI.


VITO F. ADRAGNA

On April 19, 1968, SF T-3 advised

ANZALONE

VITO ADRAGNA has two brothers, GEORGE and JOE ADRAGNA, who are members of the Pittsburgh LCN Family and one of the New York LCN families respectively.

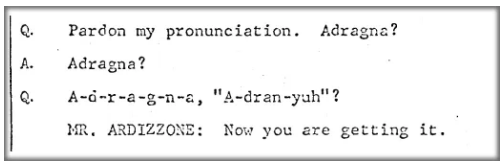
George and Joe Adragna were members of different Families.

Joseph Adragna Jr. was identified as a made member of an unspecified NYC family, though his residence in Williamsburg and Alcamese heritage make the

Bonanno Family likely if not certain. He has not, however, been identified as a member by local New York informants in FBI reports. Joe's namesake father Giuseppe Adragna also lived in Williamsburg, making him a likely Bonanno Family member given virtually all of his sons were involved in Cosa Nostra and he was born in an area of Trapani that funneled directly into the Bonanno Family.

If Nicola Gentile's friend "Joe l'Alcamese" is Giuseppe Adragna, who did come from Alcamo, hence "Alcamese", it means he split time between Pittsburgh and Williamsburg, Brooklyn. It would also mean Giuseppe Adragna was murdered by the Pittsburgh Family, the fate Gentile assigns to "l'Alcamese". A discrepancy between "Joe l'Alcamese" and Giuseppe Adragna is Gentile's description of Adragna's murder around a year after the 1932 killing of John Bazzano. Records confirm Giuseppe Adragna died in Brooklyn in February 1931, the year previous to John Bazzano's murder. Gentile also said "l'Alcamese" was engaged to a woman in Pittsburgh but Adragna was already senior in age and married in Brooklyn. Second families were not unheard of in Cosa Nostra circles but Adragna was around 65-years-old when he died and the totality of Gentile's description does not lend itself to this particular "Joe" from Alcamo.

Giuseppe Adragna did die in the early 1930s as Nicola Gentile says for "Joe l'Alcamese" in Pittsburgh, but Adragna was in Brooklyn and it's unconfirmed if he was murdered. Of course, Gentile could have easily misremembered the timeline and details of events he experienced decades earlier. The same issue of *Informer Journal* that proposes the Adragna connection skillfully dissects and contextualizes erroneous descriptions of other murders mentioned by Nicola Gentile. This includes timeline discrepancies and other signs of confusion on Gentile's part. Giuseppe Adragna's death was around the same general time as John Bazzano's murder, Adragna's sons were affiliated with the Pittsburgh Family, and son Frank Adragna was directly involved with the Bazzano situation in some capacity based on his 1932 arrest in New York. These connections suggest that the Adragnas were at the very least involved in the contemporary events described by Nicola Gentile.



Q. Pardon my pronunciation. Adragna?
A. Adragna?
Q. A-d-r-a-g-n-a, "A-dran-yuh"?
MR. ARDIZZONE: Now you are getting it.

"Adragna" pronunciation lesson from a 1960s Bay Area court hearing.

Nick Gentile could have been referring to another "Joe" from Alcamo involved with Pittsburgh, too. The presence of the Adragnas in Pittsburgh would indicate they had *compaesani* from Alcamo in Western Pennsylvania given the

tendency for these networks to flow through hometown connections. I've seen no evidence of an Alcamese faction in the Pittsburgh Family beyond Giuseppe's sons Frank and George but a connection existed that brought the Adragnas to the area, much as some connection existed that brought both Frank Adragna and Ciro Gallo into the Bazzano affair.

Another Pittsburgh Revelation

Ciro Gallo lived near the border of Williamsburg and Bushwick with his Alcamese wife, suggesting he was not a stranger to her townsmen the Adragnas in Williamsburg and therefore their Pittsburgh brother Frank who traveled to New York for the Bazzano affair. In addition to living close to Bonanno figure Frank Tartamella in 1940, Ciro Gallo's next door neighbors were his wife's family the Argentos who descended from Alcamo like the Adragnas. The Argentos had lived in Brooklyn since 1913 and would have been familiar with other nearby immigrants from their hometown.

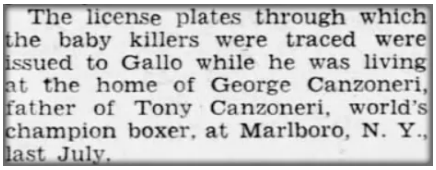
Gallo's wife Caterina Argento (pictured) was Alcamese.

Both Frank Adragna and Ciro Gallo had brothers who were identified as San Jose mafia figures in later years and the Family they belonged to had a significant number of transplants from Pittsburgh. The San Francisco boss at the time of the Bazzano murder was Tony Lima according to Lima himself during his secret cooperation with the FBI. Lima recalled how he forced Family boss Francesco Lanza to step down after his arrival to San Francisco in the late 1920s and assumed the leadership himself, his uncle Sam serving as the group's *consigliere* at the time. Sam Lima was also his nephew's father-in-law, Tony being married to his first cousin. Tony Lima was a former Pittsburgh member who shared hometown heritage with one of the Pittsburgh-based Bazzano murder arrestees, Michael Bua, the Limas tracing their involvement in Cosa Nostra back to Trabia in Palermo.

L-R: Traina, Volpe, Adragna, Gallo, and Bua.

Additional information is available that further enhances our view into these Bay Area relationships: Ciro's brother Geraldo "Joe" Gallo was a suspect in the September 1931 Giuseppe Siragusa murder in Pittsburgh a year prior to the John Bazzano murder. Siragusa, from Palermo, was the Pittsburgh *rappresentante* at the time and is believed to have been killed for his alliance with Joe Bonanno's predecessor Salvatore Maranzano, who was killed just days before Siragusa. Joe Gallo was arrested after a car with New York plates linked him to the scene and Pittsburgh-area newspaper articles claimed he was also wanted by New York police for murders connected to the "Coll gang" in Harlem, this coverage also describing Gallo as "Sicilian" and theorizing that it was a "mafia" slaying. The article indicates the killers, Gallo among them, were "imported" from elsewhere and belonged to the "Coll gang". Interestingly, Salvatore Maranzano himself is said to have been connected to Vincent Coll, reportedly planning to use him to kill Salvatore "Charlie Lucky" Luciano and Vito Genovese at the time of his own murder. The implication in newspaper reports is that Gallo served as the driver in the Siragusa murder.

Coverage of the Siragusa murder also offered a revelation that solves a mystery left open earlier in this article: *The Pittsburgh Press* stated that the license plates used in the vehicle linked to the Giuseppe Siragusa slaying were issued to Joe Gallo in July of 1931 while he was living in Marlboro with Giorgio Canzoneri, the father of Tony Canzoneri. Indeed, it was no coincidence that Ciro and Joe Gallo's mother was a LoBurgio, the same name as Giorgio Canzoneri's uncle Calogero LoBurgio, who lived with the Canzoneris in Marlboro. Neither was it a coincidence that Ciro Gallo married in Marlboro in 1933. In 1931, Joe Gallo himself was living or staying with the Canzoneris. It remains undetermined how exactly the two families were related but the two families were closely connected and almost certainly related through the LoBurgio name.


The license plates through which the baby killers were traced were issued to Gallo while he was living at the home of George Canzoneri, father of Tony Canzoneri, world's champion boxer, at Marlboro, N. Y., last July.

Joe Gallo was living with the Canzoneris before the Siragusa murder.

Joe Gallo's trajectory prior to his time in Marlboro shows him to have been in Los Angeles through most of the 1920s then he arrived in San Francisco in early 1929 where his naturalization application was witnessed by Anthony Lanza, son of Francesco Lanza who was still the sitting boss of the San Francisco Family. Anthony Lanza never became a made member but his brother James eventually succeeded Michele Abati as the Family boss in the 1960s. Joe Gallo returned from a trip to Honolulu in early 1930, arriving back to San Francisco, but by July 1931 he was staying in Upstate New York with the Canzoneris and was evidently living there long enough to register license plates at Giorgio Canzoneri's address. Two months later he allegedly participated in the murder of Giuseppe Siragusa in Pittsburgh.

Giorgio Canzoneri (pictured) provides a link to the Gallos.

The Castellammarese War effectively ended in April of that year after the murder of Joe Masseria but these events indicate Joe Gallo was at least involved in the aftermath. A Joe Gallo living in Pittsburgh was questioned for the Siragusa murder but it was determined to be a different man and he was released. I'm unable to find evidence that "the" Joe Gallo was ever detained by authorities in connection with the murder or that the identities of other suspected participants were ever named.

Beyond the significance of Joe Gallo's connection to Giorgio Canzoneri and his alleged involvement in the Siragusa murder, both Gallo brothers were named in connection with the killing of two successive Pittsburgh bosses within a year of each other. Any sense that these connections are coincidental is slapped away by these events and the multi-pronged relationships the Gallos and Adragnas shared in Brooklyn, Pittsburgh, and California. It does not appear any significant legal repercussions came from the Gallo brothers' respective involvement in high-level Pittsburgh-related murders but Ciro Gallo accumulated a couple of narcotics arrests while living in New York. Information on both brothers' underworld activity slows to a brief stop following these dramatic events and, barring future revelations, it appears both men distanced themselves from East Coast mafia politics during the 1930s.

Ciro Gallo was confirmed to be living in Brooklyn as of 1940 and remained there through 1943 when he was hit by an automobile near Troutman Street in

Bushwick, resulting in a severe injury that left one of his legs permanently shorter than the other. He was awarded $10,500 after the accident, his legal counsel being Anthony DiGiovanni, a local politician closely connected to the Bonanno Family who later became a Supreme Court Justice. DiGiovanna was also a relative of Bonanno member Anthony “Tony DeJohn” DiGiovanna whose family came from Santa Margherita di Belice in Trapani near the Agrigento border, which also sits in the same region as Palazzo Adriano.

Residence in San Francisco

Ciro Gallo was living in San Francisco by 1945, where he worked at the Poodle Dog Restaurant and owned a fish market for a time. That year his naturalization was witnessed by Alphonse LaRocca, the son of deceased San Francisco member Accursio LaRocca from Sciacca. Accursio LaRocca was described by informants as one of the most influential San Francisco members prior to his 1940 death and son Alphonse was himself heavily involved with the majority of Cosa Nostra figures in the area. Alphonse LaRocca was apparently not a made member himself but by lending his services to Ciro Gallo’s naturalization we still learn Ciro Gallo was quickly accepted into the local mafia environment and he provides another link between a Palazzese mafioso and figures from Agrigento.

Like Ciro’s brother Joe, who resided near San Jose, another Gallo brother named Vincenzo was a resident in the Bay Area where he was employed by Joe Gallo in a macaroni factory though he is not directly suspected of mafia activity. Joe Gallo’s membership in Cosa Nostra on the other hand provided a “familial” connection of two kinds that factored into Ciro’s move. Ciro and Joe Gallo would become formally affiliated with two separate Families in the Bay Area, though, serving as a great example of the way Cosa Nostra defies assumption when it comes to internal politics. Ciro Gallo’s association with Alphonse LaRocca was a better predictor of his affiliation.

Alphonse LaRocca witnessed Ciro Gallo’s 1945 naturalization.

Though the Bonanno Family had established a West Coast faction by 1942 that included members in Arizona and California, Ciro Gallo joined the local San

Francisco Family. Another Bonanno transfer into the San Francisco Family during this period was Giuseppe Venza from Castellammare del Golfo. Identified by Bill Bonanno as a one-time Tucson *capodecina*, Venza moved to Modesto where 1960s Bay Area informants identified him as a member of the San Francisco Family although at that time he was living remotely in Italy on the Italian mainland. Like the Gallos, Giuseppe Venza had a Pittsburgh connection where one of his children lived, Venza dying there in the early 1970s after returning from Italy.

Interestingly, Gallo's brother Joe would be identified by later Bay Area informants as a member of the nearby San Jose Family and not the San Francisco organization Ciro reported to. Joe Gallo was living in San Francisco circa 1929 and remained there into early 1930 where he worked as a butcher, the same trade as Giorgio Canzoneri, but that same year resided in Palo Alto prior to his seemingly brief time with the Canzoneris in Marlboro in 1931. By 1942, Joe Gallo was living in San Jose proper and seemingly remained in that general area continuosly from there forward, being identified as a resident of San Jose by local FBI member sources who named him as a member of the San Jose Family under boss Joe Cerrito.

Ciro Gallo belonged to San Francisco.

A similar example of relatives with separate affiliation in the Bay Area came from former San Francisco boss and FBI informant Tony Lima, who was first inducted in Pittsburgh. In his 1970s cooperation, Lima told the FBI that although he and his uncle Sam Lima were once administration members of the San Francisco Family, the family's cousin Giuseppe "Peppino" Lima was a deceased member of the nearby San Jose group. Tony Lima elaborated, stating that Peppino Lima was inducted into the mafia in their native Trabia and records show he spent time in Portland, Oregon, where other Lima relatives lived, making Peppino the only confirmed Cosa Nostra member to have lived in the Pacific Northwest.

San Jose member Giuseppe Lima's cousins were San Francisco leaders.

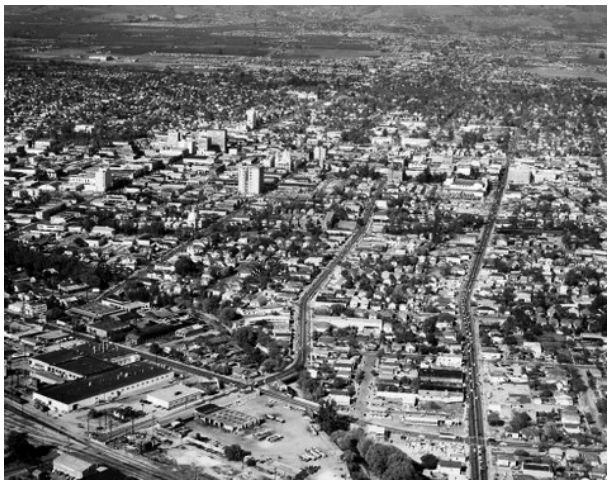
Though Tony Lima did not clarify a reason for their separate affiliation, his father's cousin Giuseppe Lima lived closer to San Jose like Joe Gallo. Curiously, Joe Gallo's 1927 marriage was witnessed by a Joe Lima in Los Angeles but it doesn't appear to be the same man, the Los Angeles Lima coming from Polizzi Generosa elsewhere in Palermo province. The name stands out regardless given Joe Gallo and Giuseppe Lima would become San Jose members and had ties to Pittsburgh, each with relatives who joined the San Francisco Family. Geography may have played a role in these arrangements, though an examination of member addresses and patterns of association over the years suggests other factors were at play, as is often the case in Cosa Nostra politics. Not all members lived and operated precisely within the jurisdiction one would expect of "San Francisco" and "San Jose". The existence of two small Bay Area Families with separate and distinct hierarchies and membership rolls has never been properly explained by informants.

Philadelphia, Chicago, and other parts of the United States show varying degrees of evidence that multiple colony-style Families once existed only to be combined into one larger regional group in their respective territory, more like a Sicilian *mandamento* in size than an individual Sicilian Family. Traditional Sicilian Families maintained what we would today consider low membership sizes and used neighborhood- and village-based geographic parameters, a trend that continues in the Sicilian mafia today. Though the Bay Area Families weren't exclusively Sicilian, the majority of the membership was of Sicilian descent, with the more influential members drawing from deeper Sicilian mafia lineages even though San Jose included administrators like underboss Stanislao "Charles" Carbone and *consiglio* chairman Stefano Zoccoli, both Calabrians who transferred from Pittsburgh.

A 1970s FBI informant reported that in addition to San Francisco boss James Lanza's father Francesco having served as an early *rappresentante* of the Family, Lanza's paternal grandfather Mariano was believed to have been a boss in their native Sicily, suggesting Mariano Lanza was a historic leader in Castelbuono, a *comune* down the eastern coast and slightly inland from the

Limas' hometown of Trabia. San Jose boss Joe Cerrito was from Villabate and his father was a wealthy mafia figure suspected of having been in the Colombo Family prior to San Jose, the Cerritos close to the Profacis of New York whose mafia lineage is confirmed to have dated back to Villabate. Cerrito in-laws the Figlias were also from Villabate and in addition to Joe Cerrito's brother-in-law Emanuele "Manny" Figlia serving as a *capodecina*, underboss, and eventually suspected boss of the Family after Cerrito's passing, Manny Figlia's father Vincenzo was a confirmed Colombo member who transferred to San Jose.

Confirmed and suspected transfers into the San Francisco and San Jose groups are too numerous to mention, including other Pittsburgh and Bonanno names that reinforce the connections evident within the Gallo brothers' relationships and travels. As an outsider, one would expect an area like the California Bay Area to have combined its two minuscule organizations into one core Family like we see in other regions, yet they instead kept two skeleton "crews" who seemed to rival one another only in their shared desire to fade away quietly. Like neighboring villages in Sicily, San Francisco and San Jose kept separate Families with relatively few members, the majority of which traced their origins and ongoing connections to mafia bloodlines and their complementary networks.

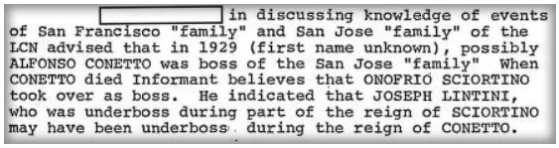


The San Jose Family was distinct from nearby San Francisco.

Neither Bay Area Family made significant efforts to recruit from the local Italian-American population and the only factor keeping their official numbers from decreasing at an even greater rate was the tendency for members of East Coast Families to ease themselves into California and transfer membership to one of the local organizations. By the 1960s, the Bay Area groups resembled benign fraternal orders and not "organized crime syndicates". Though our view has been biased by the size and criminal capacity of mafia groups in New York and Chicago, the Bay Area Families

maintained organizations that more closely resembled their small Sicilian counterparts in terms of recruitment practices and operational structure.

The Bay Area Families may have been kept separate through political arrangements reflecting their positions in older national networks. The San Francisco Family was closely connected early on to Bonanno Family boss Nicolo Schiro via Francesco Lanza and the arrangement between these Families continued through Joe Bonanno, who represented San Francisco on the Commission. On the other hand, the first known boss of San Jose in the 1920s was Alfonso Conetto from Alessandria della Rocca, the tightknit mafia village in Agrigento that produced influential members of the future Gambino Family, among other groups like Tampa and the DeCavalcantes. Bonanno captain Angelo Salvo and members of his crew were from Alessandria but he was an outlier and most Families with strong ties to Alessandria closely orbited the Gambino Family network, Salvo himself mistakenly identified as a Gambino member by an FBI source due to his own close association with them.


[redacted] in discussing knowledge of events of San Francisco "family" and San Jose "family" of the LCN advised that in 1929 (first name unknown), possibly ALFONSO CONETTO was boss of the San Jose "family" When CONETTO died Informant believes that ONOFRIO SCIORTINO took over as boss. He indicated that JOSEPH LINTINI, who was underboss during part of the reign of SCIORTINO may have been underboss during the reign of CONETTO.

Lima identified Alfonso Conetto as an early San Jose boss.

Nicola Gentile's memoir references the Sciortino brothers during his own time as a San Francisco member in the 1920s, likely a reference to two San Jose members with the same surname, brothers Onofrio and Carmelo Sciortino. Gentile describes them as followers of Salvatore D'Aquila and says they were at odds with the San Francisco leaders. The Sciortinos had heritage in Bagheria near Palermo *citta* where much of D'Aquila's organization came from and both Onofrio and Carmelo are confirmed to have lived in Manhattan and the Bronx prior to the Bay Area. Onofrio Sciortino would be confirmed as the San Jose *rappresentante* by the 1940s, succeeding Conetto whose heritage places him within the Agrigento branch of Salvatore D'Aquila's network.

Another set of Sciortinos in the Bay Area were early member Antonino Orlando Sciortino and his son, the future underboss Gaspare "Bill" Orlando Sciortino. The Orlando Sciortinos previously lived in Los Angeles in the 1920s where Antonino's brother Calogero was identified as an earlier member and his son, Santo "Sam" Orlando Sciortino, became a member in the 1960s and later served as underboss to their *compaesano* Nicolo "Nick" Licata. Tony Lima noted during his cooperation that Licata's own father Calogero had a history of association with the Orlando Sciortinos although he neither confirmed nor

denied Calogero Licata's membership. Nick's son Carlo Licata did become a member although he transferred to Detroit, where the younger Licata moved and intermarried with the local Tocco clan from Terrasini. Like Licata, the Orlando Sciortinos came from Camporeale and originally lived in Williamsburg where they associated with the Bonanno Family. The family's true surname was Orlando and they were in fact relatives of early Bonanno boss Paolo Orlando as well as Nicolo Schiro.

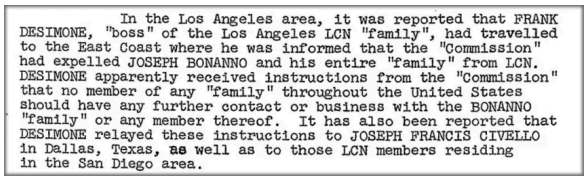
Information is thin but these connections indicate San Francisco and San Jose followed different grooves in the network and had separate political loyalties. 1910s Secret Service informant and Morello Family member Salvatore Clemente and Nicola Gentile provided information suggesting that Nicolo Schiro was at odds with Salvatore D'Aquila in 1913 and then again in the early 1920s, an indication the two Bay Area Families favored different sides of this national divide earlier in their history that contributed to their separation. Gentile's story in particular reinforces this theory: the Siculianese journeyman transferred to Schiro's Family to evade D'Aquila then visited Cleveland but left after encountering D'Aquila loyalists among the local Lonardo faction, then transferred his membership to San Francisco only to run into D'Aquila "spies" the Sciortinos who were almost certainly the prominent Sciortino brothers of the San Jose Family. The San Francisco Family was "safe" from Salvatore D'Aquila's influence but D'Aquila's shadow still reached the Bay Area through the Sciortinos.

Carmelo (L) & Onofrio (R) Sciortino represented D'Aquila.

A Newark FBI source even believed Nicolo Schiro's downfall as a New York *rappresentante* was tied to San Francisco, stating that Schiro's intervention in a plot against his friend Francesco Lanza led to Schiro losing face with the national mafia leadership and abdicating his position as boss; multiple sources, including Tony Lima, at least confirm that Lanza was at odds with other San Francisco members at this exact time. As evidenced by the earlier description of the *Gran Consiglio* and *Assemblea Generale*, these were not arbitrary relationships formed by convenience, but a closely-monitored system of relationships in which all participants were acutely aware of who

was who, what was what, and how the various pieces of the puzzle fit together.

California's role in early national politics was referenced by Nicola Gentile, who described *rappresentanti* from the West Coast attending meetings of national importance even when it didn't directly concern them. This continued even when the Commission replaced earlier systems of governance. When Joe Bonanno was deposed, Los Angeles boss Frank Desimone attended an East Coast meeting where the situation was outlined for him and he in turn was expected to update his cousin Joe Civello, the *rappresentante* of Texas. Despite the small size and relative inactivity of the Bay Area Families, they were still part of the broader Cosa Nostra apparatus.

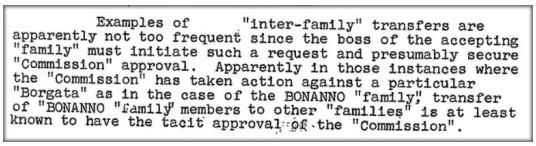

In the Los Angeles area, it was reported that FRANK DESIMONE, "boss" of the Los Angeles LCN "family", had travelled to the East Coast where he was informed that the "Commission" had expelled JOSEPH BONANNO and his entire "family" from LCN. DESIMONE apparently received instructions from the "Commission" that no member of any "family" throughout the United States should have any further contact or business with the BONANNO "family" or any member thereof. It has also been reported that DESIMONE relayed these instructions to JOSEPH FRANCIS CIVELLO in Dallas, Texas, as well as to those LCN members residing in the San Diego area.

National bosses were updated and instructed on political matters.

The San Jose Family came to be heavily linked with the Colombo Family, which is now believed to have split off from the early Gambino Family many decades earlier. That the San Francisco Family was historically aligned with Bonanno bosses from the Trapani network while San Jose had ties to the Palermo-dominated Gambino and Colombo Families could have factored into their separate identities. However, Joe Bonanno represented both Families on the Commission until he was deposed as both *rappresentante* and *avvocato*, suggesting their politics were bundled nationally for convenience if not some other purpose and it may be a generalization to separate the groups' politics into clean compartments. Early San Jose boss Alfonso Conetto's brother Ciro was a confirmed San Francisco member, for example, not the Family his brother headed, paralleling the Gallos and Limas who similarly produced members affiliated with separate Bay Area Families. Still, the two organizations align with broader patterns that potentially informed their formal separation earlier in their respective history.

It was logical for a Bonanno member like Ciro Gallo to transfer to a Family like San Francisco with strong historic links to the Bonannos. However, among those Ciro Gallo closely associated with in the Bay Area was Sebastiano Nani, a former Colombo Family member who transferred to San Francisco unlike his Colombo confederates who joined San Jose. Nani's 1956 attempt at naturalization was in turn witnessed by San Jose member Dominick Ferrito, a relative of the Cerritos. Nani was living in San Jose like Ferrito at the time,

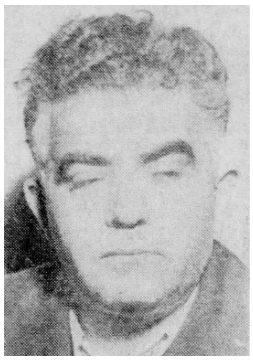
though the two men are believed to have belonged to separate Families in the area, another indication of the jurisdictional overlap between the Families.


Examples of "inter-family" transfers are apparently not too frequent since the boss of the accepting "family" must initiate such a request and presumably secure "Commission" approval. Apparently in those instances where the "Commission" has taken action against a particular "Borgata" as in the case of the BONANNO "family," transfer of "BONANNO "family" members to other "families" is at least known to have the tacit approval of the "Commission".

Transfers were influenced by national politics.

It is unsurprising the FBI and researchers alike have often confused the affiliation of Bay Area members with San Francisco and San Jose, though information from FBI member informants shows the members themselves were sharply aware of who was formally affiliated with San Francisco opposed to San Jose and vice versa. I'm reminded of Michael DiLeonardo, whose knowledge of New York Cosa Nostra is casual to him yet he is able to recall formal arrangements in all five New York Families and their corresponding politics with ease. He is surprisingly knowledgeable about the given heritage of other members, too, knowing the ancestral hometowns of many of the men he knew even though he and his parents were both born in the United States.

As a Sicilian-American with historic roots in the D'Aquila faction, Michael DiLeonardo is unique among his generation. Many of his peers, including the similarly Sicilian-American Sammy Gravano, show little awareness of these aspects of the organization but Gravano didn't come from a mafia lineage. Michael says many New York members from multi-generational mafia lineages are well-aware of where their families come from in Sicily and what that means in relation to Cosa Nostra's history and politics. It doesn't mean this is relevant to the daily lives of modern American members, but there is built-in knowledge of these details that is easily activated when prompted. This is especially relevant when looking into earlier generations of members, Ciro Gallo and his associates being prime examples.



Nani (pictured) was a close associate of Ciro Gallo.

In plain terms, Gallo's friend Sebastiano Nani was an alleged murderer and prolific narcotics trafficker who was deported back to Sicily in 1958 after accumulating a multitude of criminal charges, some of these to be referenced later. A 1963 FBI wiretap of US mafia leaders included discussion of a trip to Sicily where it was learned Nani was driving a cab in Palermo and maintained social contact with visiting members from the United States; the brief reference to Nani indicated he wished to return to the United States. A Sebastiano Nani was recorded as dying in East Farmingdale, Long Island, in 1980 though no date of birth is given and it can't be confirmed whether this is the same Nani who was deported in 1958. Ciro Gallo had later ties to Long Island that will be referred to later.

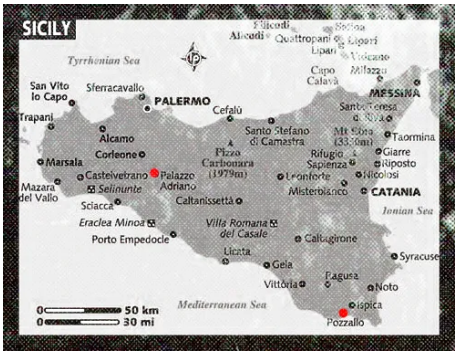
Sebastiano Nani's Sicilian hometown was a rarity in these circles, being from Pozzallo in southeastern Ragusa province. His close friendship with Ciro Gallo raises the question as to whether this was a transcription error given the phonetic similarity between Gallo's hometown "Palazzo" Adriano and Nani's origins in "Pozzallo" but Nani is consistently documented as having come from Pozzallo, Ragusa, and this is the birthplace included on his naturalization application and immigration documents.

Pozzallo is on Sicily's southeastern coast.

Ragusa province has no known mafia history and Sebastiano Nani's southeastern heritage makes him one of few Sicilians in the early Colombo Family who didn't come from Villabate, Carini, or other parts of metropolitan Palermo. However, LCN Bios profiled an early associate of Nani in Brooklyn who came from Pozzallo like him, Guglielmo Guica, and identified him as a suspected Colombo member, noting that these Pozzallesi associated with suspected Colombo leader Giuseppe Peraino prior to his 1930 murder and other individuals linked to the Gambino Family. Guica was himself murdered in 1931. Another noteworthy early American member of Pozzallese heritage was Cleveland *consigliere* and suspected boss Salvatore Todaro who came from Licata in Agrigento though his father was from Pozzallo just down the

coast and his Cleveland associates referred to him as “il Pozzallese” in reference to his paternal ancestry; Todaro was murdered in 1929 and had no known ties to Nani or Guica in Brooklyn.

Nani defies the theory that Colombo Family members in the Bay Area would automatically share political affiliation with San Jose. Similarly, there are examples of former Bonanno members who joined San Jose rather than the “expected” San Francisco Family and the Gallo brothers were seemingly part of the same network but belonged to two different Families in the area. Sebastiano Nani’s birth in Ragusa province make him a relative outsider in Colombo Family networks despite his affiliation and might explain his transfer to San Francisco instead of the expected San Jose. Of course none of this is an exact science and unknown factors may have contributed or it was simply a matter of preference. Perhaps one group had open membership “slots” at the time a given member wished to transfer while the other did not.



Palazzo Adriano (left) and Pozzallo (bottom right).

Sebastiano Nani’s “outsider” heritage from Ragusa indicates he earned his status in Cosa Nostra locally during his time in Brooklyn, where he may have known Ciro Gallo prior to their mutual residence in California even though the two men operated in different areas of the borough. His heavy participation in violence and narcotic trafficking show that Nani relied on a fearsome reputation for status and not blood or marital ties as we see from unassuming made members who hold jobs like doctors or “ordinary” businessmen. Prior to his deportation in the late 1950s, Sebastiano Nani may have previously returned to Sicily and entered the United States illegally as a stowaway in the 1940s, arriving on a mafia-linked Italian Merchant Marine ship captained by a Tampa mafia figure. The ship included Gambino *capodecina* Gaetano Martino from Palermo among its crew members.

Shared heritage or not, Nani became a Cosa Nostra member and therefore was accepted in mafia circles when he moved to the Bay Area. Membership likely facilitated his friendship with Ciro Gallo, who otherwise shows up

connected to men with deeper mafia heritage. Another member who came to the Bay Area in the 1940s did share the Gallo brothers' heritage in Palazzo Adriano, though. The story of this man's death helps shed more light on Ciro Gallo's relationship to other mafia members in the Bay Area.

The Nick DeJohn Murder

The man known as "Nick DeJohn", born Nicola DiGiovanni (b. 1909), was an influential member of the Chicago Family who became another Bay Area transplant by the mid-1940s along with his brother Anthony, who is not known to have held membership but mingled in the same mafia-dense circles. Nick DeJohn's father was closely connected to the early leadership of the Chicago Family, too. The elder "DeJohn", humorously named Giovanni DiGiovanni, assumed the position of Business Agent for the Chicago National Hod Carriers during Nick's youth but was shot to death in 1918. Chicago *rappresentante* Antonino D'Andrea from Valledolmo in Palermo province previously held this post and he of course was murdered himself in 1921. Giovanni DiGiovanni's wife, Nick's mother, subsequently had her 1923 naturalization witnessed by Michele Merlo, D'Andrea's successor as Chicago boss and a native of Sambuca di Sicilia near Palazzo Adriano across the provincial border in Agrigento.

Michele Merlo was the *rappresentante* until his natural death in late 1924 but a suspected predecessor of both Merlo and D'Andrea was Pietro Catalanotto from Villafranca Sicula, another Agrigento village directly in between Burgio and Lucca Sicula and therefore another village in this same central region around Palazzo Adriano. Catalanotto was murdered in 1915, the year after previous boss Rosario DiSpenza's own murder, DiSpenza coming from Ciminna in Palermo and ostensibly in the position since 1909 when he received an administrative letter from *capo dei capi* Giuseppe Morello. The heritage of these confirmed and suspected Chicago bosses show that in addition to the more well-known Palermitano villages that informed the early Chicago membership, there was also a prominent element from the interprovincial Palermo-Agrigento-Trapani region discussed throughout this article.

The DeJohns were linked to Chicago bosses D'Andrea (L) & Merlo (R).

Nick DeJohn grew up in this mafia environment and it's all but confirmed that Giovanni DiGiovanni was a significant mafioso himself prior to his murder. The elder DiGiovanni was from Palazzo Adriano like Ciro Gallo and his brother Joe, Joe Gallo having arrived from Sicily in 1914 to relatives in Chicago when Giovanni DiGiovanni was alive and actively involved with local mafia figures. Joe Gallo would not maintain a known residence in Chicago for any significant length of time, but this destination is an indication the DiGiovannis and Joe Gallo crossed paths during their shared time in Chicago. Though the Canzoneris aren't recorded as having lived in or visited Chicago, their residence in Southern Illinois during the same period and Joe Gallo's stay with Giorgio Canzoneri later on in Marlboro raises the possibility they too had contact with their Chicago *compaesani* in addition to nearby St. Louis before moving to New York.

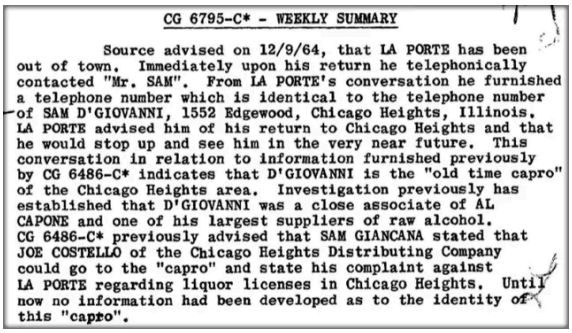
An older relative of Nick DeJohn was Salvatore "Sam DeJohn" DiGiovanni (b. 1891) of Chicago Heights, a senior member of the Chicago Family born in Palazzo Adriano who originally lived in Southern Colorado. Tony Canzoneri's great-uncle Calogero LoBurgio apparently lived in Colorado himself, both DiGiovanni and LoBurgio sharing Palazzese heritage with the wife of murdered Pueblo leader Pellegrino Scaglia and therefore Scaglia's father-in-law Francesco Accomando, a confirmed Pueblo member. The obscure Sam DiGiovanni is largely overlooked but was a figure of prominence in Chicago Heights, where a separate Family was confirmed to have once existed via the account of Nicola Gentile.

Though overshadowed by prominent Calabrians in the area like the Robertos and Frank LaPorte, the latter a confirmed *capodecina* by the 1960s, a short-lived 1964 FBI bug in the office of LaPorte documented references to another individual referred to as the "old time capro" [sic], implying this man also held rank in the area. The FBI suspected it was Sam DiGiovanni being referred to based on Frank LaPorte's interactions with DiGiovanni and other context gleaned from the agency's investigation into the secretive Chicago Heights faction.

One wiretap of Joseph Costello from Chicago Heights, the son and nephew of early Caccamese leaders in the area, true name Castelli, confirmed that Costello himself was a "sleeper" member of the organization and the recording, which was a sitdown of sorts with boss Sam Giancana, indicated Costello reported to a *capodecina* separate from Frank LaPorte. An unidentified man also attended the meeting where he spoke in Italian and made reference to traveling the country in connection with Cosa Nostra

decades earlier, the possibility existing that this elder mystery attendee was Sam DiGiovanni himself. Costello's father had been murdered in 1938 and was presumably a member under their *compaesano* Filippo Piazza prior to Piazza's own murder in 1926 and the dissolution of the Chicago Heights Family. During his taped conversation with Giancana, the younger Costello specifically used the term "*capodecina*" (transcribed as "gobrachino" and "gobrogina" [ph]) when referring to his personal superior in the organization.

Though close to Frank LaPorte and the non-Sicilian element in Chicago Heights, Sam DiGiovanni was noted by the FBI as being particularly close to remnants of an older Sicilian element in the area, as was his brother Nicola, not to be confused with "the" Nick DeJohn. One member Sam DiGiovanni maintained constant contact with was Filippo "Phil" Bacino from Ribera, a resident of Calumet City noted earlier for his apparent relative Andrea Triolo's birth in Johnston City. Bacino had extensive links to the DeCavalcante Family, his son even meeting his future wife at the New Jersey wedding of DeCavalcante underboss Frank Majuri's daughter. Other elder figures close to DiGiovanni in the Heights were Filippo Costello (Joseph's uncle) and Pietro Zeranti, both Caccamese and possibly members of the organization.



CG 6795-C* - WEEKLY SUMMARY

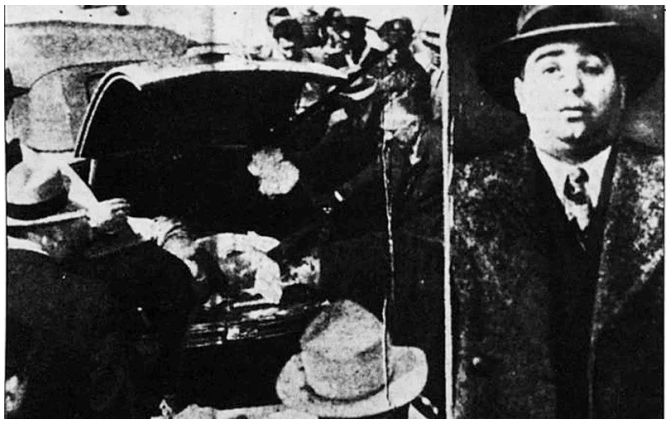
Source advised on 12/9/64, that LA PORTE has been out of town. Immediately upon his return he telephonically contacted "Mr. SAM". From LA PORTE's conversation he furnished a telephone number which is identical to the telephone number of SAM D'GIOVANNI, 1552 Edgewood, Chicago Heights, Illinois. LA PORTE advised him of his return to Chicago Heights and that he would stop up and see him in the very near future. This conversation in relation to information furnished previously by CG 6486-C* indicates that D'GIOVANNI is the "old time capro" of the Chicago Heights area. Investigation previously has established that D'GIOVANNI was a close associate of AL CAPONE and one of his largest suppliers of raw alcohol. CG 6486-C* previously advised that SAM GIANCANA stated that JOE COSTELLO of the Chicago Heights Distributing Company could go to the "capro" and state his complaint against LA PORTE regarding liquor licenses in Chicago Heights. Until now no information had been developed as to the identity of this "capro".

The FBI suspected Sam DiGiovanni was a *capodecina*.

Nick DeJohn was younger than Sam DiGiovanni but his closest associates in both Chicago and San Francisco were similarly western Sicilian. *Compaesani* from the same village were typically aware of each other in American colonies where they worked and socialized together. Many of them were extended relatives if not more closely related, continuing to show preference for associates whose connections went beyond crime alone. Early American-born generations of *compaesani* often followed these trends as well. The mutual appearance of Gallos and DiGiovannis in Chicago and San Francisco illustrates how mafiosi from Palazzo Adriano followed similar paths and arrived at the same destinations.

That the Gallos and Canzoneris also have relation to the LoBurgio name and overlapped in Marlboro, including at the home of Giorgio Canzoneri, further

demonstrates how these Palazzese mafiosi maintained contact and connection across time and place during the formative years of the American mafia, these relationships even spanning generations. In addition to his relationships in Chicago and the California Bay Area, Nick DeJohn previously traveled to Dallas where local informants later noted his attempted involvement in local rackets. The small Dallas Family had members from hometowns like Salaparuta, Roccamena, and Corleone, all relevant to Palazzo Adriano. In 1965, an FBI informant also reported overhearing a vague conversation between longtime New Orleans associate Onofrio Pecoraro and another man where Nick DeJohn's name was mentioned even though DeJohn was by then long-deceased; Pecoraro had heritage in Agrigento.



Nick DeJohn met his fate in San Francisco.

California was nonetheless Nick DeJohn's final destination in the American mafia network. DeJohn became one of the most publicized names in Bay Area mafia history when he was garroted to death in 1947, his body found in the trunk of a car on San Francisco's Laguna Street. Early reports stated a belief DeJohn came from Chicago and was killed by San Francisco figures after attempts to "muscle" in on the local Family's territory. Ciro Gallo's friend Sebastiano Nani was among the list of suspects charged with the murder, as were two successive San Francisco Family bosses, Michael Abati and his predecessor Tony Lima. Fellow Bay Area mafiosi Leonardo Calamia and Frank Scappatura rounded out the list of codefendants.

San Francisco *rappresentante* Michael Abati provided another connection to Trapani province for Ciro Gallo, Abati being born in Monte San Giuliano (today Erice) and marrying a woman from Castellammare del Golfo, Joe Bonanno's hometown. Prior to San Francisco, Abati lived in Erie, Pennsyvlania, a city controlled by the Buffalo Family under the Castellammarese Stefano Magaddino, Joe Bonanno's cousin. Abati retired to Castellammare after giving up his role as boss of San Francisco and like Sebastiano Nani he maintained

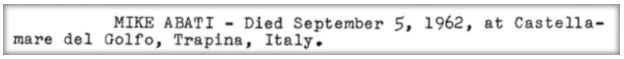
social connections to American mafiosi visiting Sicily. Mike Abati died in Castellammare del Golfo in 1962.

A connection to both Trapani and Chicago came through Leonardo Calamia, another Chicago transplant like DeJohn whose heritage came from Salaparuta in Trapani province, the same hometown as the DeSimones of Pueblo and Los Angeles. The DeSimones were also cousins of Dallas boss Joseph Civella, heritage in Salaparuta, these backgrounds providing a potential connection for Nick DeJohn's involvement in Dallas. Born in Louisiana, the Calamias spent a period living in Kansas City where Leonardo's father Pasquale was shot to death in 1919, prompting the family to return to Sicily for a period. His mother remarried and took the children to Chicago where Leonardo became involved in heroin trafficking before moving to California. He became scarce after the DeJohn murder, seemingly retaining his association if not formal affiliation with the Chicago Family though he may have spent time in Los Angeles as well.

Calamia came from Chicago, too.

Both Ciro Gallo and brother Joe gave unproductive testimony during the DeJohn murder trial and the men suspected of murdering Nick DeJohn were let go following a mistrial but the publicity of the case pushed the quiet San Francisco Family even further away from overt criminal activity, particularly violence. Former Los Angeles leader Jimmy Fratianno, who was close to members in the Bay Area as well as Chicago, joked in his first memoir how the San Francisco Family hadn't committed a murder since Nick DeJohn was killed. Federal scrutiny in later years would give the Bay Area leadership a shameful reputation due to James Lanza and Joe Cerrito's sheepish reluctance to meet with other Cosa Nostra members, even within their own organizations.

Among those who were reported to have their sights on the vulnerable Bay Area mafia in these years were the treacherous Fratianno and none other than Joe Bonanno. FBI reports throughout the 1970s show Bonanno continued to see the Bay Area as an area he could use to regain his lost stature after he was deposed as boss. He may have been as motivated by his earlier political influence over the area as much as its proximity to his residence in Arizona.


MIKE ABATI - Died September 5, 1962, at Castellamare del Golfo, Trapina, Italy.

Abati was part of the international "Bonanno" network.

Abati's predecessor and codefendant Tony Lima would go on to secretly cooperate, providing the FBI with updates on the marginal San Francisco leadership while sharing invaluable historic information on the decaying San Francisco membership. Lima told the FBI about his own 1927 induction into the Pittsburgh Family, another thread connecting Bay Area figures to western Pennsylvania. Though there are discrepancies between sources, Lima told the FBI he became boss of San Francisco around 1929 or 1930 after intimidating sitting *rappresentante* Francesco Lanza to step down. Lima claimed Lanza had given him a murder contract to carry out then openly discussed the contract with other San Francisco members, a violation of mafia protocol.

Francesco Lanza also lost face around the late 1920s due to a dispute involving his underboss "Joe Piazza", believed to be Cleveland boss Giuseppe Lonardo's younger brother Domenico, though other sources also state that Lanza lost his title when he died of natural causes in 1937 and make no mention of Tony Lima usurping control by 1930. The Newark FBI source referenced earlier linked Nicolo Schiro's own fall from grace to these events as well. Lima's ascent may in fact have come later than he claimed but he was among the top young names in the organization after his arrival from Pittsburgh in the late 1920s.

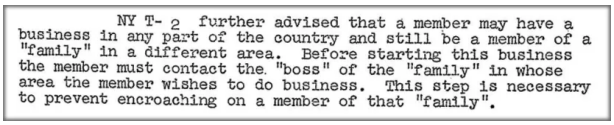
Abati's departure and Lima's cooperation show how the senior leadership quickly divested itself of responsibility over San Francisco Cosa Nostra activity in the years following the DeJohn murder, Francesco Lanza's son James universally regarded as an ineffective leader after inheriting the title in the early 1960s. Lanza became so uninvolved that it became unclear if he was even the official *rappresentante* by the early 1970s, Lima telling the FBI of his own plan to reclaim the boss position he held during previous decades. Nothing appears to have come of Tony Lima's scheme despite Lima initially being under the impression he again held his earlier title. The Family's only official administrator who maintained any interest in the organization was underboss Bill Orlando Sciortino, a descendant of the Camporealese Orlando-Schiro clan mentioned earlier, and even that was minimal. The DeJohn murder indeed seems to have been the last major event in the Family's history.

San Francisco bosses Lima (L), Abati (M), and James Lanza (R).

Along with being suspects in the 1947 Nick DeJohn murder, Tony Lima and Michael Abati were partners with DeJohn in the Sunland Oil and Cheese Company at the time of his murder, adding doubt to the idea that DeJohn was at odds with the local Family and proving he was a welcome peer of these men. Whether or not Lima had personal knowledge of Nick DeJohn's murder is not evident from his FBI cooperation but it is highly likely Lima knew intimate details about what transpired. It's not uncommon for FBI informants to omit their own direct knowledge of murders, as demonstrated by prolific Colombo Family killer and longtime FBI informant Greg Scarpa who provided extensive information to authorities without reporting his personal involvement in countless murders.

Jimmy Fratianno described an interaction where a Chicago mafioso boasted of his own involvement in Nick DeJohn's killing. During a night of drinking, Chicago member Dominick Galiano confessed to Fratianno he was the one who killed DeJohn many years earlier. Dominick Galiano told Fratianno it was *capodecina* James Franzone from Chicago who ordered the murder after an attempt by Franzone to "take over" San Francisco. The FBN identified James Franzone as a close associate of Tony Lima and he was indeed from Chicago as Fratianno stated, returning there in the years after the DeJohn killing. Franzone was in fact related by marriage to Nick DeJohn, James Franzone's first cousin marrying Tony DeJohn, Nick's brother.

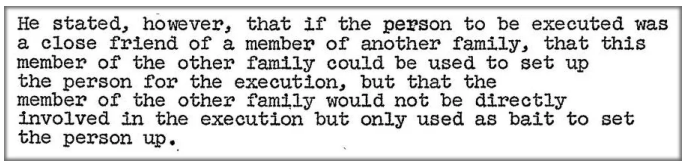
Franzone, whose true given name was Vincenzo, was born in Tunisia to parents from Borgetto, near Partinico, while Galiano's family (original name Gagliano) came from Chiusa Sclafani in Palermo; Chiusa Sclafani directly neighbors Palazzo Adriano. Galiano was himself killed in 1966 and one of the suspects was Chicago member Jasper Campisi, who had heritage in Sambuca in Agrigento like early boss Michele Merlo, Campisi's family also having history in Kansas City like Leonardo Calamia. Note that Jimmy Fratianno did not quote Dominick Galiano as saying it was Nick DeJohn attempting to muscle in on activities in the Bay Area, but rather the man who ordered DeJohn's killing was attempting a takeover, James Franzone.


NY T- 2 further advised that a member may have a business in any part of the country and still be a member of a "family" in a different area. Before starting this business the member must contact the "boss" of the "family" in whose area the member wishes to do business. This step is necessary to prevent encroaching on a member of that "family".

Jurisdiction was flexible so long as protocol was followed.

Whatever Franzone's exact role was in DeJohn's death, it can be inferred from the various accounts of the murder and confirmed association between figures like DeJohn, Lima, Abati, and Franzone that the DeJohn murder was a joint effort between Chicago and San Francisco leaders, as one would expect from a Chicago member's execution in the Bay Area. Weak as the organization might have been in San Francisco, Sicilian *pentiti* have described how mafia protocol requires that a Family receive permission from another Family before murdering someone in their territory. This basic protocol applied to less sinister exchanges between visiting members and the local Family, too, FBI informants in the United States stating the same principal applies to any activity, including business. Sicilian *pentiti* have noted murders are sometimes deliberately committed in another Family's area without consulting the local group as a show of force. Whether the Nick DeJohn murder involved protocol being followed, ignored, or deliberately violated, the protocol nonetheless existed.

Though he was not put on trial, Ciro Gallo was brought in for questioning with Sebastiano Nani in connection with the murder of his *compaesano* Nick DeJohn. Gallo was suspected of luring DeJohn to his violent death, further indication their shared Palazzo Adriano background helped forge a relationship when the two men met in the Bay Area if not earlier through the myriad of potential connections between them. According to a witness, Nick DeJohn believed he was meeting Ciro Gallo on the day of his murder to inquire about a stove, though Gallo would claim he and DeJohn murder suspect Sebastiano Nani had driven back from Los Angeles prior to the murder and were riding with Ciro's brother Joe Gallo when they experienced car trouble in San Jose.


He stated, however, that if the person to be executed was a close friend of a member of another family, that this member of the other family could be used to set up the person for the execution, but that the member of the other family would not be directly involved in the execution but only used as bait to set the person up.

Members of other Families were sometimes used as "bait" in murders.

Ciro Gallo's naturalization witness Alphonse LaRocca made an appearance in the DeJohn investigation, with a property owned by the LaRoccas alleged to be a location used in the murder. Whether or not Ciro Gallo did assist in baiting DeJohn prior to his murder, Gallo's connections to the DeJohn murder

theory are self-evident based on his relationships alone. He was a member of the San Francisco Family with a close relationship to Sebastiano Nani and Alphonse LaRocca plus he was a *compaesano* of the victim Nick DeJohn.

Outside of his suspected involvement in the murder conspiracy, Ciro Gallo's San Francisco superiors and close friend Sebastiano Nani were charged as suspects in the murder, making him an obvious person of interest, though it's unlikely authorities appreciated the significance of Gallo and DeJohn's mutual heritage in Palazzo Adriano. At that time most authorities were largely unaware of the degree hometown ties influenced relationships within Cosa Nostra. It is only in recent years that historians have properly contextualized the role of *compaesani* relationships in the formation and development of American Cosa Nostra.

Ciro Gallo (center left) and Sebastiano Nani (center right) in 1947.

In addition to their shared ancestry in Palazzo Adriano, Nick DeJohn had ties to a Trapanese figure in Chicago much as Ciro Gallo had ties to Trapani via marriage and association with the Bonanno Family. An alleged relative of DeJohn was Vincenzo Benevento, an influential Chicago figure murdered in December 1945, approximately one year and four months previous to DeJohn's own murder. Benevento came from Partanna, Trapani, a village that produced Bonanno members in New York City who closely associated with members from nearby villages. The exact relation, if indeed they were true relatives, is undetermined, but the two men were connected in Chicago.

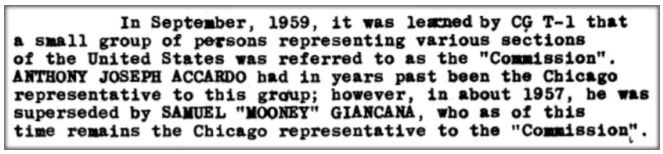
Partanna is specifically near early Williamsburg figure Benny Gallo's roots in Santa Ninfa and Salemi, Bonanno members from those three towns showing enduring relationships over multiple generations, even among those born in America. The father of Benny Gallo, as discussed earlier, came to the United States with a possible maternal relative of Ciro and Joe Gallo from Palazzo Adriano named LoBurgio who headed to Chicago where the DiGiovannis lived. The Chicago Family had an early element from this area of southern Trapani, this group falling under the Genna brothers whose faction included men from

towns like Marsala and Castelvetrano. This faction was decimated during the violent Chicago mafia wars of the 1920s, but DeJohn's alleged relative Vincenzo Benevento had roots in this faction via his father-in-law Calogero "Charles Cutilla" SanFilippo, who came from Partanna like Benevento.

Deeper than DeJohn Alone

Well-known Chicago bosses like Girolamo "Sam" Giancana and Anthony "Tony" Accardo had heritage in Castelvetrano but their roots in the Genna faction, which reportedly "imported" mafiosi straight from Castelvetrano, are not confirmed. Giancana had partial heritage in Partanna as well, Vincenzo Benevento's hometown, and both the Giancana and Accardo families had links to local *compaesani* during their youth in Chicago. In Accardo's case there are indications his family intersected with the local Castelvetranese mafia element but it is widely assumed that Tony Accardo came up in the organization under Vincenzo "Jack McGurn" Gibaldi and the wider Al Capone-aligned element that was influencing the city during the 1920s. This would not be inconsistent with Genna links, however, as the Trapanese Genna brothers were allies of Al Capone and Gibaldi's Agrigento heritage in Licata complements Capone's similar alliance with Pasquale LoLordo.

Accardo's exact path into the organization is not truly confirmed by any member sources and thus most theories are based on dots connected through outsider coverage, these gaps often filled in through fan fiction. Tony Accardo and particularly Sam Giancana were the product of more "Americanized" influences but older connections were still all around them. Sam Giancana came up in Chicago among a hoodlum "gang" element that carved out his reputation locally but it's still striking that he was mentored in the mafia itself by a *compaesano* who shared his heritage in Castelvetrano and succeeded this man as *rappresentante* of the Chicago Family, a pattern observed in countless other Families throughout the history of Cosa Nostra. Still, there is reason to believe men like Accardo and Giancana were less beholden to these relationships than their peers like Nick DeJohn and the Family's Northside faction.


In September, 1959, it was learned by CG T-1 that a small group of persons representing various sections of the United States was referred to as the "Commission". ANTHONY JOSEPH ACCARDO had in years past been the Chicago representative to this group; however, in about 1957, he was superseded by SAMUEL "MOONEY" GIANCANA, who as of this time remains the Chicago representative to the "Commission".

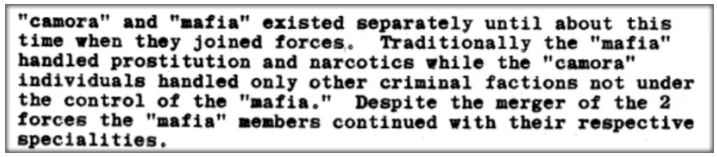
Accardo and his protege Giancana represented common heritage.

Chicago FBI informant Teddy DeRose, a longtime Family associate who admitted faking Italian ancestry to curry favor within the Chicago Family,

claimed Vincenzo Benevento and other Sicilian members in Chicago staged a failed coup against the local leadership in the 1950s, though DeRose's timeline is erroneous as the actual conflict took place in the 1940s. These events are too complex to appropriately address here, but Chicago Family leaders Louis Campagna, Paul Ricca, Philip D'Andrea, Charles Gioe, Francis Maritote, and Los Angeles member John Roselli were convicted in the "Hollywood Extortion" case in 1943 and fellow Chicago leader Frank Nitto committed suicide that year, producing a leadership void in the Chicago Family.

Though names like Campagna, Ricca, Maritote, and Nitto were Italian mainlanders with evidence of links to early Campanian Camorra networks, D'Andrea was the nephew of early boss Antonio D'Andrea from Valledolmo and Gioe had heritage in Marineo in Palermo, the Chicago leadership having included Campanians, Calabrians, and other Italians among its ranks alongside Sicilians for many years leading into the 1940s. DeRose became associated with the Chicago Family in the 1920s and told the FBI that the Family during that period included roots in both the "Camorra" and the Sicilian "mafia" who subsequently "joined forces".

Other sources like FBI wiretaps of Genovese captain Angelo "Ray" DeCarlo and Milwaukee member Augie Maniaci both stated as well that Al Capone himself was a one-time Camorrista, DeCarlo's conversations confirming this was true of other Genovese leaders with Campanian and Calabrian heritage. Nicola Gentile and Augie Maniaci both independently confirmed that Al Capone was first inducted into the future Genovese Family under Joe Masseria and quickly became a Chicago-based *capodecina* before transferring membership and becoming the Chicago *rappresentante* in 1931 during the immediate aftermath of the Castellammarese War. Joe Bonanno's description is less specific but he confirms the same basic story in his memoir *A Man of Honor*.


"camora" and "mafia" existed separately until about this time when they joined forces. Traditionally the "mafia" handled prostitution and narcotics while the "camora" individuals handled only other criminal factions not under the control of the "mafia." Despite the merger of the 2 forces the "mafia" members continued with their respective specialities.

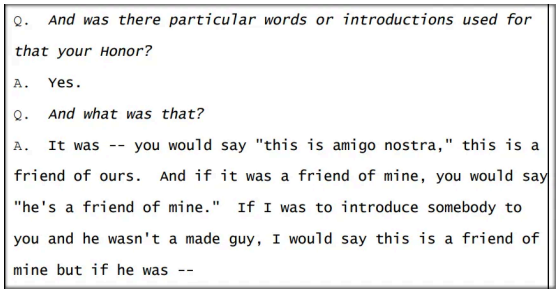
DeRose described Camorra and Sicilian mafia influences in Chicago.

Nicola Gentile confirmed that this exact process took place in Pittsburgh during the late 1910s and a wealth of evidence supports his claim, much as similar evidence local to Chicago supports DeRose's claim. Despite the organization in Chicago becoming "Americanized", it was no different from several of the New York Families and certain groups elsewhere in the United States in that it became pan-Italian during the 1920s with close relationships to prominent non-Italians via crime and business. Families like Cleveland and

Pittsburgh also elected non-Sicilians as their *rappresentante officiale* before and shortly after Al Capone's election in Chicago, his Calabrian contemporaries Frank Milano and John Bazzano serving in this role in their own respective Families. Milano's ascent as boss even predates Capone, Nicola Gentile confirming Frank Milano as Cleveland boss in 1930.

The system these groups came to utilize and fall under within the Italian-American underworld was not a "new" invention nor was it a hybrid organization, rather it was Cosa Nostra, an outgrowth of the Sicilian mafia. Despite diversifying its ranks, it still mirrored the same rules, structure, protocol, and politics of 19th Sicilian mafia groups and was continuous with the "mafia" entity. There is significant evidence that Calabrians in Western Pennsylvania and Ohio maintained an adjacent Camorra / 'ndrangheta organization into the 1960s and the membership intersected with prominent Calabrian leaders within the nearby Pittsburgh and Cleveland Families but it did not interfere with Cosa Nostra, which was the main vessel of recognition utilized locally and throughout the country by the 1920s.

The pan-Italian "Cosa Nostra" of the United States included cultural influences and new ethos inspired by the roots of these non-Sicilian networks but the organization itself did not fundamentally change. Chicago's sole member who turned Cooperating Witness, Nick Calabrese, confirmed this when he testified against "outfit" leaders in the "Family Secrets" case during the 2000s. Calabrese's full testimony is virtually indistinguishable from any New York member's testimony outside of geographic location and there is no indication the organization was fundamentally different from their peers in other cities, past or present. Theories that suggest otherwise are based on superficial readings of the Chicago mafia phenomenon and stem from a lack of historical insiders who could or would clarify the finer details about Chicago's internal processes.



Q. *And was there particular words or introductions used for that your Honor?*

A. Yes.

Q. *And what was that?*

A. It was -- you would say "this is amigo nostra," this is a friend of ours. And if it was a friend of mine, you would say "he's a friend of mine." If I was to introduce somebody to you and he wasn't a made guy, I would say this is a friend of mine but if he was --

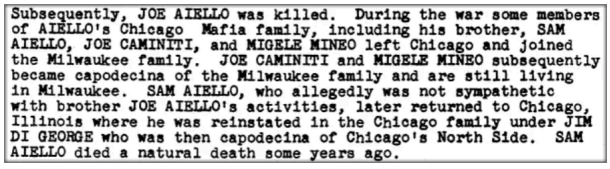
Calabrese's testimony was identical to any account of Cosa Nostra.

Al Capone was indeed at war with some Chicago Sicilians during much of the 1920s and into the '30s but he was not at war with "the" Sicilians. He feuded with a faction of Bagheresi under Giuseppe "Joe" Aiello, who Nicola Gentile

confirms served as underboss under the leadership of the Messinese Giuseppe Lombardo beginning around 1925, but Capone's early allies in Chicago included the Genna brothers whose faction included men from Marsala and Castelvetrano. Gentile helped mediate a leadership conflict in Chicago circa late 1924 and early 1925 following the death of Michele Merlo and confirmed that Capone's allies the Gennas were members of the local Family rather than an independent gang. Nicola Gentile was also personally acquainted with Al Capone, having met him during an earlier visit to Chicago during the 1920s and then again when Capone was a ranking Genovese member during the Castellammarese War and ultimately the Chicago boss in 1931.

Capone's later ally Pasquale LoLordo, the suspected boss between late 1928 and early 1929, came from Ribera in Agrigento and LoLordo's brother Joseph moved to New York City after his brother's murder where he was identified as a member of the DeCavalcante Family. Capone's own sponsor into the mafia was Joe Masseria, a Sicilian with heritage in both Agrigento and Trapani like LoLordo and the Gennas, respectively. *Compaesani* connections may have even informed Capone's alliance with these Chicago figures given LoLordo's hometown of Ribera is near Masseria's paternal heritage in Menfi while the Genna's roots in Marsala make them direct *compaesani* of Joe Masseria via his mother, Masseria even living there prior to entering the United States.

The Sicilians in Chicago were not all of one mind, some like Aiello opposed to Capone and Masseria's growing influence in the area while those like the Gennas and LoLordo supported it. Even the Bagheresi were not entirely unified within their own group, Augie Maniaci stating that some of them opposed their *compaesano* Joe Aiello, including Aiello's own relative Sam Aiello. Maniaci stated that Sam Aiello temporarily left Chicago during the conflict but eventually returned and was reinstated into the post-Capone Family under *capodecina* Vincenzo "Jim" DeGeorge, a Riberese *compaesano* of Pasquale LoLordo. DeGeorge maintained a close relationship to the DeCavalcante during his tenure as a Chicago captain, even sitting on the New Jersey Ribera Club's orphanage commitee in the 1940s with fellow Chicago member Filippo Bacino, ex-Chicago transplant Joseph LoLordo, and the entirety of the DeCavalcante leadership in New York and New Jersey.


Subsequently, JOE AIELLO was killed. During the war some members of AIELLO's Chicago Mafia family, including his brother, SAM AIELLO, JOE CAMINITI, and MIGELE MINEO left Chicago and joined the Milwaukee family. JOE CAMINITI and MIGELE MINEO subsequently became capodecina of the Milwaukee family and are still living in Milwaukee. SAM AIELLO, who allegedly was not sympathetic with brother JOE AIELLO's activities, later returned to Chicago, Illinois where he was reinstated in the Chicago family under JIM DI GEORGE who was then capodecina of Chicago's North Side. SAM AIELLO died a natural death some years ago.

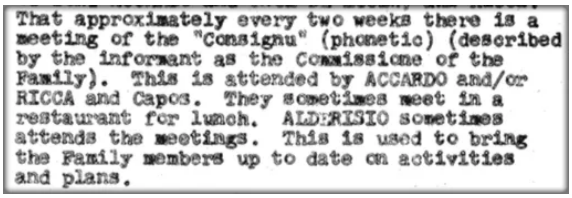
Chicago's Sicilians had divided political loyalties.

A lack of member sources with insight into historic Chicago have led to a distorted "outsider" mythology in which Chicago created a unique "hybrid" organization called the "Outfit" but members from other cities like Frank Bompensiero of San Diego were well-acquainted with Chicago leaders and consistently discuss them as they would any Cosa Nostra group, viewing them as *u stessa cosa*. Much as second-generation Caccamese member Joseph Costello was recorded using the term "*capodecina*" during a 1960s meeting with Sam Giancana, there is evidence they utilized other traditional elements of the Sicilian mafia.

Numerous Chicago FBI sources, primarily non-members including Teddy DeRose, noted that the Chicago organization utilized a "board of directors" or what DeRose termed a "committee". This body was comprised of boss Sam Giancana and select captains but also former leaders like Tony Accardo and Paul Ricca at various times. DeRose stated that the "committee" arbitrated disputes in the Family and that the names of proposed members were also presented to the "committee" for approval prior to a new member's induction. Certain sources also indicated that a "chairman" or secretary presided over this committee, both Tony Accardo and / or Paul Ricca named in this role in some of these accounts despite Sam Giancana serving as the Family *rappresentante* at the time.

This description is consistent with the *consiglio* found in the Sicilan mafia and numerous Sicilian-centric American Families, including nearby Milwaukee who referred to it as the "*seggia*", or "chair". San Jose member informants specifically stated that their own council had an elected "secretary", ex-Pittsburgh member Stefano Zoccoli. Zoccoli was from Santo Stefano di Aspromonte in Reggio Calabria and there is reason to suspect his older relatives were affiliated with the formative Calabrian Camorra / 'ndrangheta in the region, the Milanos of Cleveland being close friends of Zoccoli and coming from neighboring San Roberto.

A wiretap of Zoccoli meeting with San Francisco boss James Lanza revealed that the "secretary" not only presided over the council but had the authority to meet with the Commission and have the Family boss removed from power, an action Stefano Zoccoli was contemplating taking against his boss Joe Cerrito. Los Angeles member informant Frank Bompensiero was close to numerous Chicago members and relayed to the FBI in 1969 that member Phil Alderisio recently told him the Family used a "*consignu*" [ph], this being a phonetic or dialect variation of *consiglio* and confirmation that Chicago's "committee" or "board of directors" was simply the traditional council found in the Sicilian mafia.


That approximately every two weeks there is a meeting of the "Consignu" (phonetic) (described by the informant as the Commissione of the Family). This is attended by ACCARDO and/or RICCA and Capos. They sometimes meet in a restaurant for lunch. ALDERISIO sometimes attends the meetings. This is used to bring the Family members up to date on activities and plans.

The Chicago Family used a formal *consiglio*.

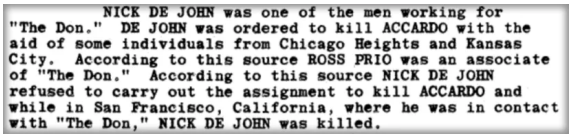
These details are crucial to understanding the Chicago Family itself but also the members who belonged to this organization, including Nick DeJohn. In the wake of the "Hollywood Extortion" case, Teddy DeRose stated that Tony Accardo assumed a larger leadership role and was at odds with an individual known as "The Don", identified elsewhere as alleged DeJohn relative Vincenzo Benevento. Benevento's rank has never been clarified but he was presumably a *capodecina* or possibly part of the administration, his faction including Nick DeJohn, Vincenzo "James" D'Angelo and Vincenzo "Jim" DeGeorge from Ribera in Agrigento (the latter maintaining close ties to the DeCavalcante Family), Anthony Pinelli from Villarosa / Calascibetta in historic Caltanissetta (Pinelli being close to leading *compaesani* in Pittsburgh like bosses Vincenzo Capizzi and John LaRocca), Rosario "Ross Prio" Priolo from Ciminna (the hometown of early Chicago boss Rosario DiSpenza), and Lawrence Mangano from Messina province, among others typically associated with the Family's Sicilian-centric Northside faction.

Benevento (pictured) represented a more traditionalist group.

Benevento was said by DeRose to have tasked Nick DeJohn with murdering Tony Accardo but DeJohn refused to act and instead fled to San Francisco, resulting in DeJohn's subsequent murder. This occurred after Benevento's own death which raises further questions about the details recalled by Teddy DeRose but it's possible DeJohn was killed by remaining loyalists of Benevento's faction or Accardo issued the contract himself due to DeJohn's earlier alignment with Benevento. DeRose does confirm that Accardo got wind of the "revolt" and ordered approximately twelve murders before the end of the war, with D'Angelo, Mangano, and other Benevento supporters among the deceased. Dominick Galiano's boast to Jimmy Fratianno that he carried out the murder for captain James Franzone at least supports Chicago's

involvement in the murder and would suggest it was the Northside group who killed him although this could have been done to appease the Accardo regime and establish peace in the wake of the conflict. Jim DeGeorge was confirmed as a one-time *capodecina* in the Family but was eventually demoted while Ross Prio fell in with the new leadership and became a captain himself over the Northside membership.

Interestingly, DeRose stated that Nick DeJohn was also aligned with figures from Chicago Heights and Kansas City in his group's conflict with Tony Accardo. It's been established that DeJohn's relative Sam DiGiovanni was a member in Chicago Heights, possibly even a *capodecina* for a period, and DeGeorge's close *compaesano* Filippo Bacino was based in Calumet City and associated with the Chicago Heights element, but the Kansas City reference draws other connections into the fray. In addition to Leonardo Calamia and Dominick Galiano having history in Kansas City prior to Chicago, Nicola Gentile discussed how Palazzese Pueblo member Francesco Accomando transferred to Kansas City along with other Scaglia relatives from Burgio in the 1920s. That the Chicago conflict was relevant to Kansas City and perhaps other Families is unsurprising, the John Bazzano murder just a decade earlier showing that the Pittsburgh Family's internal affairs were relevant to Families in other locations and individuals like Vito Genovese and Albert Anastasia were politically invested in their respective Campanian and Calabrian confederates who existed among the local membership.


NICK DE JOHN was one of the men working for "The Don." DE JOHN was ordered to kill ACCARDO with the aid of some individuals from Chicago Heights and Kansas City. According to this source ROSS PRIO was an associate of "The Don." According to this source NICK DE JOHN refused to carry out the assignment to kill ACCARDO and while in San Francisco, California, where he was in contact with "The Don," NICK DE JOHN was killed.

DeRose linked Kansas City to Nick DeJohn's group.

The Kansas City Family had numerous members from the inland Trapani area where Vincenzo Benevento descended from and the DiGiovanni brothers who held historic leadership posts in Kansas City were from Chiusa Sclafani like Galiano and spent their formative years in Chicago where they associated with the local mafia, possibly sharing a degree of relation with the DiGiovannis / DeJohns from neighboring Palazzo Adriano. The DiGiovanni name also draws back to Ciro Gallo's attorney in the 1943 case in which Gallo was awarded over $10,000 following an automobile injury that left him permanently maimed. Anthony DiGiovanna, a future judge, had heritage in Santa Margherita di Belice and his relatives in the Bonanno Family used the nickname "DeJohn", an obvious play on names like DiGiovanna or DiGiovanni. Santa Margherita sits close to towns like Palazzo Adriano and Chiusa Sclafani. Unsurprisingly, the "DiGiovanna" name was originally DiGiovanni in Sicily.

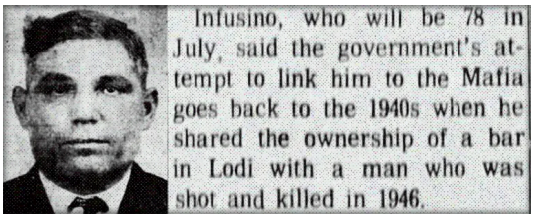
Gallo's connection to "DeJohns" in both Brooklyn and the California Bay Area are coincidental in the sense that no links can be established between the Bonanno DiGiovannas and the Chicago DiGiovannis but the ongoing patterns and connections demonstrated among *compaesani* from those towns is not a coincidence, Ciro Gallo associating with both branches. Even less coincidental is that Nick DeJohn and Vincenzo Benevento were said to be aligned with Kansas City figures during their war in Chicago, the Kansas City Family also including historic members from Burgio which surfaces often in connection with its neighbor Palazzo Adriano.

It can't be stated that any active Kansas City members in the 1940s were from Palazzo Adriano like we see with Mariano Costa in St. Louis but the Family was still part of the same extended *compaesani* network along the Palermo-Agrigento-Trapani border that produced the "DeJohn" DiGiovannis and these networks informed the politics of Cosa Nostra more heavily during the American mafia's developing stages. However, Tony Accardo's family was from Castelvetrano as stated and that too was part of a similar network so it can't be assumed that Kansas City itself was unified against Accardo, this Family perhaps having its own factions who favored different sides of the Chicago conflict for reasons connected to but not entirely hinged on the heritage of a given member.

St. Louis Parallels

Drawing back to the Nick DeJohn murder in San Francisco, a similar situation in the Calfornia Bay Area occurred around the same time and involved the St. Louis Family rather than Chicago. Vincenzo "Jimmy" Infusino from Licata was briefly mentioned much earlier in the article due to his involvement in the rampant warfare in St. Louis during the 1920s that involved Domenico Giambrone from Palazzo Adriano. Some of Infusino's associates were eventually killed but he remained in St. Louis through the 1930s. Jimmy Infusino initially lived in Kansas City prior to St. Louis but the entirety of his early affiliation with Cosa Nostra was in Missouri.

Infusino subsequently left St. Louis and moved to the California Bay Area around 1940 where in 1944 he partnered with fellow St. Louis transplant Gaetano "Tom" Buffa in a Lodi tavern. Tom Buffa was a former St. Louis leader from Partinico who survived an attempt on his life there in 1943, likely prompting his move, though he was ultimately killed in Lodi three years later in late March of 1947, just over a month before the murder of Nick DeJohn in San Francisco.

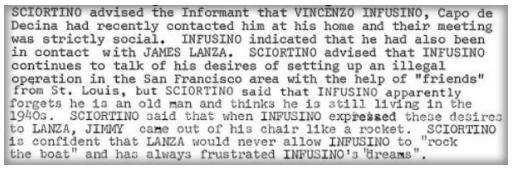


Infusino, who will be 78 in July, said the government's attempt to link him to the Mafia goes back to the 1940s when he shared the ownership of a bar in Lodi with a man who was shot and killed in 1946.

Buffa's (pictured) murder paralleled Nick DeJohn.

Jimmy Infusino spent a period hiding out in Pittsburgh after the Buffa murder then returned to California, ultimately ending up in Modesto where he worked as a rancher. It's unknown if Tom Buffa transferred to a Bay Area group before his death but Infusino did secure a transfer from St. Louis to San Francisco where he was later part of the Family hierarchy. Infusino became a San Francisco *capodecina* under the leadership of Mike Abati in the 1950s and continued in this role under James Lanza but he was the sole member with this rank in the San Francisco Family and former boss Tony Lima told the FBI this was an honorary title. The Modesto-based Infusino had no members reporting to him, the Family's small membership instead answering directly to underboss Bill Orlando Sciortino. Neither was Jimmy Infusino involved in any significant underworld activity, his role in San Francisco consisting of little more than periodic check-ins with the administration and occasional social visits with other members.

Infusino evidently kept ties to Kansas City, as FBI informant Joe Crapisi was the son of a former Kansas City member who heard updates about Jimmy Infusino's activities on the West Coast. Infusino unsurprisingly stayed connected to his former Family in St. Louis as well, Tony Lima reporting in early 1968 how the senior captain was seeking permission to get back involved in illegal operations in the Bay Area with made members from St. Louis. Boss James Lanza's answer was an emphatic no and underboss Bill Orlando Sciortino dismissively told Lima that Infusino "still thinks he's living in the 1940s," perhaps a reference to his involvement with the doomed Tom Buffa in Lodi over twenty years earlier.



SCIORTINO advised the Informant that VINCENZO INFUSINO, Capo de Decina had recently contacted him at his home and their meeting was strictly social. INFUSINO indicated that he had also been in contact with JAMES LANZA. SCIORTINO advised that INFUSINO continues to talk of his desires of setting up an illegal operation in the San Francisco area with the help of "friends" from St. Louis, but SCIORTINO said that INFUSINO apparently forgets he is an old man and thinks he is still living in the 1940s. SCIORTINO said that when INFUSINO expressed these desires to LANZA, JIMMY came out of his chair like a rocket. SCIORTINO is confident that LANZA would never allow INFUSINO to "rock the boat" and has always frustrated INFUSINO's "dreams".

Infusino's St. Louis connections disrupted the Bay Area.

After describing Jimmy Infusino's request and its subequent denial, the underboss further remarked to Tony Lima that James Lanza had always "frustrated Infusino's dreams," though it would be Bill Orlando Sciortino who frustrated them further by demoting Jimmy Infusino in 1970. The retired

Infusino's status was reduced again two years later when he was fully shelved by the Family leadership. Orlando Sciortino and Tony Lima were attempting to reorganize the San Francisco group on their own at this time and what remained was in a state of disarray, these maneuvers being little more than a formality that added to the ex-St. Louis member's isolation before he died.

Neither Chicago nor Nick DeJohn were referenced in relation to Buffa's move to California and murder that followed but the timing and Teddy DeRose's belief that DeJohn was involved with Kansas City in the 1940s Chicago war is a provocative coincidence that suggests all of these events had a degree of commonality. The added involvement of Leonardo Calamia and alleged participation of Dominick Galiano in the DeJohn murder add additional Missouri connections into the mix. There was far less coverage of Buffa's murder in contemporary media and certainly no Jimmy Fratianno or Teddy DeRose to present theories or anecdotes about what took place or why. The attempted murder of Buffa does parallel the Nick DeJohn murder in that a prominent Midwestern mafioso with Sicilian heritage was involved in a conflict in his original city, came to the California Bay Area, and was murdered the very same year while associating with similar figures. Though Buffa's murder may have been an extension of events in St. Louis, it did not exist in a vacuum.

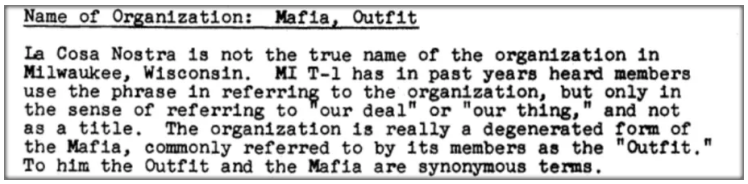
Chicago's Sicilian Faction

What's known of the 1940s conflict shows the Benevento and DeJohn faction to be primarily Sicilian, the Northside group(s) they were affiliated with maintaining Sicilian membership even into later years. Much as New York Families and organizations in other American cities had diversified into pan-Italian conglomerates but did not erase their essence nor their Sicilian lineages, the Chicago Family had pervasive Sicilian roots and the most reliable FBI intelligence confirms that Chicago remained a traditional Cosa Nostra organization regardless of the influence of prominent non-Sicilians like Al Capone and the close relationships the group maintained to influential non-Italians.

The Northside faction itself had close relationships to non-Italians dating back to the 1920s, underboss and would-be boss Giuseppe "Joe" Aiello from Bagheria working closely with the Dean O'Banion "gang" and utilizing them in the infamous "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" in 1929. The Chicago "outfit" would have likely looked the same post-1931 regardless of which faction won the wars of the 1920s and early '30s, the local elements that shaped the Chicago Family being an organic process not beholden to any one man's "vision" even if Capone and his allies helped shape the organization around

themselves and their own allies. Non-Sicilians had already been members of the Sicilian-led Chicago Family since the early 1920s and likely earlier, Nicola Gentile confirming that Giuseppe "Diamond Joe" Esposito from Campania was already a made member when Michele Merlo was boss and that the two men were close.

"Outfit" was a popular regional term for mafia Families rather than a distinction unique to Chicago, Milwaukee member and FBI informant Augie Maniaci stating that "outfit" was also the preferred term for his Milwaukee Family and sources similarly echoed this sentiment in Kansas City and numerous other American Families even outside of the Midwest. 1960s FBI recordings of DeCavalcante Family leaders show them using the term "outfit" to describe the organizations in New York and New Jersey. It was also common in numerous Families to have, as Joe Bonanno described it, "conservative" (Sicilian) and "liberal" (Americanized or pan-Italian) factions. It's possible the 1940s war orchestrated by Benevento was an illustration of this divide. Beyond DeRose, who was a Family associate, we lack inside sources from this era who can shed light on the nuances at play but the 1940s Chicago war was a standard mafia conflict of the era comprised of all the elements one would expect from any contemporary mafia war, including connections to other relevant cities informed by Sicilian *compaesani* networks.



Name of Organization: Mafia, Outfit

La Cosa Nostra is not the true name of the organization in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. MI T-1 has in past years heard members use the phrase in referring to the organization, but only in the sense of referring to "our deal" or "our thing," and not as a title. The organization is really a degenerated form of the Mafia, commonly referred to by its members as the "Outfit." To him the Outfit and the Mafia are synonymous terms.

"Outfit" was a common euphemism for any American mafia "Family".

Vincenzo Benevento's only known link to the Bonanno Family comes indirectly through his ties to Grande Cheese Company in Wisconsin. DeRose noted Benevento's connection to Grande Cheese and indeed it was formerly owned by influential Chicago figures allied with Benevento during the 1940s Chicago conflict, ownership of the company then transferring to Wisconsin-based Bonanno member Giovanni DiBella during the aftermath. Joe Bonanno became a partner in Grande Cheese with his longtime friend DiBella from Montelepre, whose relatives had a similarly close relationship to former Bonanno boss Nicolo Schiro. Madison Family member Filippo "Phil" Candela, a *compaesano* and in-law of DiBella, was another partner in the company.

Much as Giuseppe Traina maintained national ties through his Empire Yeast Company, Joe Bonanno had similar national partnerships through his investment in the cheese industry. As noted earlier, Bonanno was a partner of

ex-Bonanno member and Colorado boss Jim Colletti in the Colorado Cheese Company. Joe Bonanno was also an alleged investor in the lucrative Saputo Cheese Company of Montreal, formed by Giovanni DiBella's close friend Giuseppe Saputo from DiBella and Candela's hometown of Montelepre. Joe Bonanno's business interests often reflect relationships in Cosa Nostra and these various mafia-linked cheese companies commonly did business with one another, there being numerous other mafia-linked cheese businesses in this national and international business network.

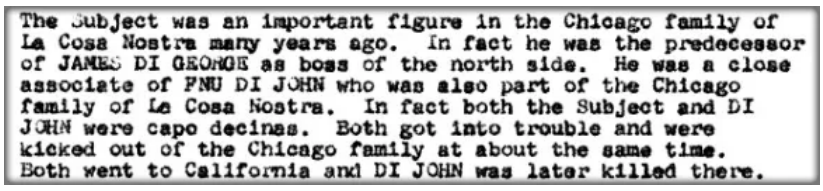
DiBella (L) & Bonanno (R) took over Grande Cheese in Wisconsin.

Though the Bonanno connection via Grande Cheese is circumstantial, it's unlikely the previous owners operated in a vaccuum and these arrangements often materialize from existing connections, suggesting Vincenzo Benevento was not a stranger to the Bonanno Family network given his heritage in Trapani. Nick DeJohn provides another direct link to the Bonanno Family through his relationship to Ciro Gallo, who had only recently transferred to San Francisco when the two men began socializing in the California Bay Area. Joe Gallo's previous arrival to Chicago and the close-knit nature of these Palazzese relationships would indicate the DeJohn-Gallo relationship was not new and reflected ongoing ties between the two men, their relatives, and perhaps the Families they belonged to, which by the 1940s included the Bonannos, Chicago, and both Bay Area Families.

In 1959, Chicago boss Sam Giancana and *consiglio* member Tony Accardo were captured on an FBI tape discussing Commission affairs which turned into a rant about Joe Bonanno's increasing influence in Arizona and the West Coast, his promotion of son Bill Bonanno to "boss" (*capodecina*) in the former provoking their ire. Given the circumstantial connections the Benevento group had to the Bonanno network and the Accardo-Giancana leadership's adversarial relationship to Bonanno, it can't be ruled out that Joe Bonanno himself didn't have a hand in supporting Vincenzo Benevento's efforts during the 1940s conflict. It's confirmed that Bonanno made attempts to undermine and usurp leadership of the Los Angeles Family in the early 1960s. These schemes were then applied to the Bay Area, albeit weakly, during the 1970s.

Regardless of a speculative Bonanno tie-in, that Nick DeJohn was murdered just over a year following his possible relative Vincenzo Benevento's own murder reinforces the idea that DeJohn's murder was the result of this political conflict with roots in Chicago rather than a local Bay Area "racket war". The latter type of speculation often proves insubstantial. Deeper investigation into mafia murders reveals an easily overlooked point: killings are not necessarily the result of one incident or action, but a "case" involving multiple incidents and patterns of behavior. In Cosa Nostra's own legal system, a RICO-style list of infractions can make a particularly strong argument for murder or loss of standing in Cosa Nostra. One incident can be "the straw that breaks the camel's back", though this is only one among many problems that mounted over time.

Joe Bonanno's fall from grace in 1964 was the result of years worth of infractions before he was deposed and shelved, never regaining recognition as a member let alone boss. The problems Nick DeJohn was facing were likely multi-dimensional, especially if DeJohn was a ranking member in Chicago prior to San Francisco and involved himself in the volatile power struggle taking place in Illinois during the early-mid 1940s. While discussing the history of Los Angeles member Gaspare "Jasper" Matranga, one California FBI source briefly touched upon the 1940s Chicago war and stated that Matranga had once been a *capodecina* in the Chicago Family who was succeeded by Jim DeGeorge but also identified Nick DeJohn as a contemporary *capodecina*. The source further stated that both "got into trouble" and were "kicked out" of the Chicago Family. Matranga is confirmed to have eventually transferred to Los Angeles while living in San Bernardino and then Mexico but the language indicates both men were at least shelved in Chicago prior to DeJohn's murder.


The Subject was an important figure in the Chicago family of La Cosa Nostra many years ago. In fact he was the predecessor of JAMES DI GEORGE as boss of the north side. He was a close associate of FNU DI JOHN who was also part of the Chicago family of La Cosa Nostra. In fact both the Subject and DI JOHN were capo decinas. Both got into trouble and were kicked out of the Chicago family at about the same time. Both went to California and DI JOHN was later killed there.

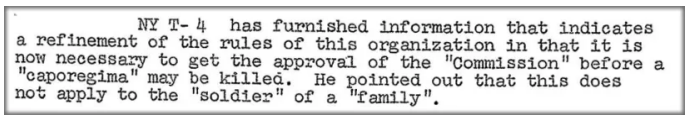
Matranga and DeJohn were both identified as *capidecine.*

Gaspare Matranga shared his heritage in Piana dei Greci with prominent Los Angeles mafiosi who filled out the Family's early membership, Matrangas among them, showing he followed a *compaesani* network established much earlier in the organization's history. Boss Jack Dragna's predecessor Giuseppe Ardizzone who was killed in 1931 came from Piana dei Greci and interestingly Frank Bompensiero said the Chicago Family approved his murder. Bompensiero reported in 1974 that a member of the Piana dei Greci Family named Giuseppe DiCarlo lived remotely in Tijuana where he assisted other

Cosa Nostra members and though Matranga was three years deceased by that time the man was apparently well-established in Mexico while Matranga was alive and living there, Jasper Matranga himself possibly a Sicilian mafia member prior to joining the Chicago Family given he arrived to the United States in his 30s. Matranga's daughter married Los Angeles *capodecina* Angelo Polizzi who originally came from Buffalo; the Polizzis came from San Giuseppe Jato, which neighbors Matranga's Sicilian hometown.

The heritage of both Matranga and DeJohn places them in Sicilian *Arbëreshë* communities and their respective migration from Chicago to California was linked to the Chicago war, both of them apparently serving as captains when the war kicked off although both lost standing during or after the reorganization. That Matranga's life was spared and DeJohn's was taken could suggest Nick DeJohn had other marks against him, continued to cause issues, or perhaps Jasper Matranga simply had a better advocate in California who guaranteed his safe transfer into the local Family. Though Matranga can't be placed in Calumet City, where DeGeorge's *compaesano* Filippo Bacino was the most prominent known member, Fratianno's belief that Matranga was linked to this area is not completely unfounded given Teddy DeRose believed nearby Chicago Heights was involved with the Northside "resistance" faction and other figures along the Illinois-Indiana border were similarly associated with this group.

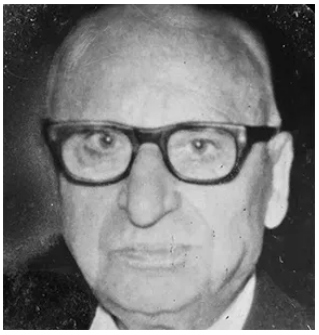
Sam DiGiovanni's presence in Chicago Heights and possible *capodecina* status was already noted but Anthony Pinelli, who DeRose identified as part of the Benevento-DeJohn faction, was a one-time *capodecina* who operated in Indiana. One of Pinelli's sons married the daughter of Jim DeGeorge while another son, Salvatore, married the daughter of DeCavalcante boss Filippo Amari, a close associate of both DeGeorge and Filippo Bacino. Salvatore Pinelli was eventually made in Los Angeles and Anthony Pinelli himself transferred to the local Family after moving to California. Pinelli's heritage was in Villarosa / Calascibetta in Enna province and he was a business partner and friend of his *compaesani* in Pittsburgh, bosses Vincenzo Capizzi and Sebastiano "John" LaRocca, but his intermarriage with prominent Riberesi in Chicago and New Jersey illustrates his relationships within Cosa Nostra in addition to his alignment with the Benevento faction during the 1940s war. Numerous figures in this circle had close ties to California.


NY T- 4 has furnished information that indicates a refinement of the rules of this organization in that it is now necessary to get the approval of the "Commission" before a "caporegima" may be killed. He pointed out that this does not apply to the "soldier" of a "family".

Protocol was strict for high-ranking mafia murders.

If Nick DeJohn did flee to San Francisco in part to escape the Chicago conflict, his choice of the California Bay Area has significance. Along with his brother Tony's residence in the area, his *compaesani* Ciro and Joe Gallo were well-connected in California going back to their appearance in Los Angeles as far back as the 1920s. Like the presence of Jasper Matranga and Giuseppe DiCarlo in Tijuana, Ciro Gallo arrived to the United States through Tijuana in 1927. Joe Gallo first arrived to Chicago from Palazzo Adriano and these men were all veterans of the mafia subculture. It again defies coincidence that all men ended up there at the same time and shared many common threads linking their backgrounds together.

Sam DiGiovanni of Chicago Heights remained a member in good standing despite his possible involvement in the 1940s war, DeRose noting Chicago Heights' involvement with the Benevento-DeJohn group in addition to Kansas City. Outside of his tentative identification as an "old time" *capodecina* in 1964, DiGiovanni does not appear to have maintained a leadership post in the Family during subsequent years but Frank Bompensiero documented a visit to Chicago Heights in the early 1970s where he dined with DiGiovanni and Frank LaPorte. Bompensiero was a close friend of LaPorte, who the Los Angeles member knew to be a Chicago *capodecina*, and provided extensive information on LaPorte's activities but I'm not aware of any previous references Bompensiero made to Sam DiGiovanni during his cooperation. Frank Bompensiero even visited DiGiovanni at his large Chicago Heights home during this trip, noting that Sam's brother Nick also lived at the residence and referred to them using the surname DiGiovanni as well as the nickname "DeJohn". Sam DiGiovanni died of natural causes in 1977.



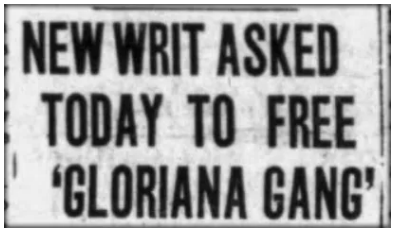
DiGiovanni was active with the Chicago Family until his death.

There were other Palazzese connections in early Chicago apart from the brief presence of Joe Gallo and the long-term involvement of the DiGiovannis, too. Buffalo member Joseph "Chicago Joe" Sciales was born in Palazzo Adriano in 1908 and lived in Chicago into the 1930s before following Roy Carlisi to Buffalo, where a 1960s FBI source identified Sciales as a member of Carlisi's

decina. Ron Fino, the son of later Buffalo leader Joseph Fino, who was close to Carlisi, has stated that Carlisi was initially made into the Chicago Family as a young man and in addition to his brother Sam serving as a later Chicago Family *rappresentante*, their father Giuseppe Carlisi from Canicatti was once a prominent mafioso in both Chicago and Buffalo. Cousin Alphonse Tornabene was another Chicago member who served as the Family's acting boss during the early 2000s.

The full extent of Joe Sciales's involvement with the Chicago Family prior to Buffalo is unknown but he did engage in crime while still living in Illinois. Sciales was at least a well-connected associate with heritage in Palazzo Adriano like the DiGiovannis / DeJohns who was close to the Family's element from eastern Agrigento province. Sciales's mother was a Schiro, like Tony Canzoneri's mother. Another potential connection draws back to St. Louis, where *alta* mafioso Mariano Costa maintained a business partnership with his Palazzese brother-in-law Giuseppe Sciales. In addition to Costa's work as a bondsman, this Sciales similarly provided bond and even employed local mafia figures at his company. Given the unique nature of the Sciales name and the proximity of Missouri to Illinois, there may be a degree of relation between the two men.

Vincenzo "Charles Gloriana" Glaviano, born in Palazzo Adriano in 1895, was another Chicago figure of note via his so-called "Gloriana gang", a group of young Sicilian hoodlums that has never been identified as a formal attachment of the contemporary Chicago Family but the "gang" included associates who later became initiated members of the Chicago Family and served as part of the Ross Prio *decina* in Chicago's Northside; some were even future crew leaders themselves. Priolo was from Ciminna and members of his crew were primarily from Palermo province but the historic Northside crew(s) also included other Sicilians from the province of Agrigento. Like his fellow Palazzesi mentioned throughout this article, Gloriana spent time in California, specifically Los Angeles where Joe Gallo once lived, and though he maintaned a presence in Chicago he ultimately died in Los Angeles in 1976. He has never been identified as a formal member of the Chicago Family but relatively little is known about the full membership of the Family through most of its existence, there being a number of overlooked "sleeper" members or suspected members and Gloriana's group was at least an influential spawning ground or "farm team" for the organization.



Associates of the Palazzese "Gloriana" became Chicago members.

In addition to known names from these generations, there are indications that Chicago may have had older mafiosi from Palazzo Adriano in its midst much as early St. Louis did and the same is likely true of other cities mentioned in this article, Pittston being one and even the Bonannos another possibility. The Cosa Nostra affiliates from Palazzo Adriano who we are more familiar with likely had older relatives and other *compaesani* involved with the mafia in Palazzo itself along with these organizations during the early years of the American mafia based on patterns observed among comparable Cosa Nostra members from other relevant western Sicilian *comuni*. The Palazzese mafiosi we know of in the United States even after the 1930s show patterns among themselves, being connected to many of the same places, people, and of course each other even after establishing themselves in different locations.

A Gambino Connection

Interestingly, the Gallos had a relation to future Gambino member Peter Piacenti, who eventually served as an acting *capodecina* in one of the Family's Brooklyn crews. Born in 1921 to parents from Palermo like many formative Gambino members, Piacenti was raised in Brooklyn but after serving in the military during World War II he inexplicably moved to San Jose where in 1948 he married Geraldo "Joe" Gallo's daughter Anna. That same year, Joe Gallo also inexplicably filed for a passport application in Colombia. Piacenti's connection to the Gallos and California is unexplained but his involvement with the Gallo family was not limited to a marital relation and could relate to Joe Gallo's Colombia connection.

In 1952, Peter Piacenti was arrested with 26-year-old Pietro Raimondi in a heroin smuggling operation and investigators suspected the operation had international links to the mafia. Raimondi was described as a nephew of the Gallo brothers who had entered the country illegally through Texas two years earlier and it was believed the two men obtained narcotics via Italy. It's unknown what became of the case but Raimondi appears to have remained in the San Jose area, eventually dying in Santa Clara in 2013. His illegal entry in the United States indicates he was born in Sicily, perhaps the Gallos' native Palazzo Adriano, and would further suggest the brothers remained in contact

with a criminal element in their native Sicily that included relatives, Raimondi's exact "nephew" relation unconfirmed.

Piacenti (L) associated with Gallo nephew Raimondi (R).

The same year as Piacenti and Raimondi's arrest, Peter's brother Frank Piacenti and Ciro Gallo's longtime associate Sebastiano Nani were charged with attempting to bribe an FBN agent. Nani was a notorious drug trafficker and the attempted payoff of a narcotics agent followed his arrest earlier that year in a large-scale heroin operation in San Francisco, suggesting the San Jose case against Peter Piacenti and Pietro Raimondi was connected. Nani however was living back in Brooklyn at the time of the bribery arrest, where Frank Piacenti also lived. Both Frank Piacenti and Sebastiano Nani were described as dock workers.

Frank Piacenti (L) associated with Nani (R).

Peter Piacenti returned to Brooklyn following his legal trouble in California where he was inducted into the Gambino Family by 1958 and became affiliated with a crew run by Alfred Eppolito, who is believed to have taken over the *decina* of John "Johnny Roberts" Robilotto, a well-liked captain and former loyalist of Albert Anastasia who was killed in 1958 after getting caught in the political crossfire following Anastasia's own 1957 murder. Eppolito was indicted for narcotics trafficking in 1962 but passed away in 1963, his brother James Eppolito Sr. then succeeding him as *capodecina*. The Eppolitos were uncles of notorious "mafia cop" Louis Eppolito, a corrupt former police officer later convicted of carrying out murders and supplying information on behalf of the Lucchese Family leadership during the 1980s.

By the 1970s, Peter Piacenti was a soldier in the *decina* of Anthony "Nino" Gaggi, a Palermitano member closely aligned with boss Paul Castellano. Gaggi's father was a cousin of former underboss Frank Scalise, murdered by Albert Anastasia in 1957. Piacenti was a familiar face among the Family's Brooklyn faction and was seen attending Carlo Gambino's 1976 funeral with a group of other prominent Brooklyn members. In fact, it was former Gambino captain Michael DiLeonardo who picked Piacenti's face out of the crowd for me in video footage of the Gambino funeral; DiLeonardo would later play a direct role in Piacenti's final years as a Gambino member.

Piacenti attended Carlo Gambino's funeral.

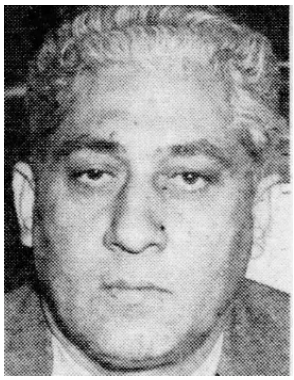
Nino Gaggi inherited elements of the old Eppolito crew and Piacenti became unwittingly involved in the haphazard 1979 murder of his former captain James Eppolito Sr. and Eppolito's son James Jr., by then a member himself, when the father and son ran into a dispute with Gaggi. Ostensibly riding to a meeting where the issue would be settled, Gaggi and his violent protege Roy DeMeo both personally shot the Eppolitos to death in a stopped automobile with Piacenti present before fleeing on foot; Piacenti was reportedly unaware of the murder plot. An off-duty police officer witnessed the commotion and became involved in a shootout with Gaggi, with Nino Gaggi and Piacenti both hit by bullets during the firefight. Neither man was fatally injured and Gaggi was subsequently incarcerated while Piacenti remained on the streets of Brooklyn where he eventually joined the "waterfront" *decina* of Anthony "Sonny" Ciccone, whose crew traced back to Anastasia in-law Anthony Scotto.

Remaining with the Ciccone crew throughout the 1990s, in 1999 Piacenti became the acting captain for a time due to Ciccone's legal trouble and subsequently transferred to the *decina* of Michael DiLeonardo. DiLeonardo cooperated several years later and Piacenti's placement after that is unknown, the Gallo in-law dying in 2007. Despite Ciro Gallo's early membership in Brooklyn, he was from a different part of the borough and affiliated with the Bonanno Family while Ciro's brother Geraldo, Piacenti's father-in-law, was even further removed from New York. Why Peter Piacenti moved to San Jose in the 1940s and how he linked up with the Gallos is a mystery but as with many marriages in the Cosa Nostra orbit it reflects the complex web of

connections found within the mafia network. There is a possibility that Piacenti and his marital uncle Ciro Gallo had opportunities to associate later, however.

Gallo's Controversial Return

Ciro Gallo moved from his 1945 San Francisco address closer to his brother Joe in San Jose by 1948, residing in Sunnyvale but retaining formal affiliation with San Francisco. The Nick DeJohn murder was not Ciro Gallo's only brush with a murder plot while living in the Bay Area. Lennert Van't Riet assisted my research, filling in the gaps during these outwardly dormant periods in Gallo's life.

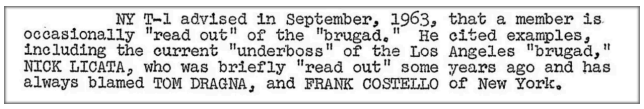


Ciro Gallo's story came only in spurts.

Though the exact year is unspecified, sometime after the DeJohn murder a conflict with an unidentified "Frank" led Ciro Gallo to request permission to murder this man. The San Francisco leadership approved the murder with the stipulation Gallo take personal responsibility for carrying out the killing, forcing him to perform the act himself. Ciro Gallo did not follow through on the murder of the unidentified "Frank", who it was noted had a close relationship to Los Angeles *rappresentante* Jack Dragna. The association with Dragna was a significant factor in how the San Francisco leadership responded to Gallo's request.

Gallo absconded to Mexico in response to the tension surrounding this ordeal, reversing the route he took back in 1927 when he entered California through Tijuana. Gallo was subsequently shelved by the leadership and was living back in New York City by the mid-late 1950s. Ciro Gallo's shelved status was apparently hinged on Jack Dragna, as it was because of Dragna's death in 1957 that Gallo attempted to regain his recognition in Cosa Nostra. Jack's brother and *consigliere* Tom Dragna similarly influenced the "shelving" of future Los Angeles boss Nick Licata with political support from Frank Costello. Like Gallo, Licata had ties to the Bonanno Family, coming from

Nicolo Schiro's maternal hometown of Camporeale and partnering with Schiro's friend Francesco Lanza in the late 1920s, then still the San Francisco *rappresentante*, in a California property. Nick Licata had lived in Brooklyn before living in Detroit and then California.



NY T-1 advised in September, 1963, that a member is occasionally "read out" of the "brugad." He cited examples, including the current "underboss" of the Los Angeles "brugad," NICK LICATA, who was briefly "read out" some years ago and has always blamed TOM DRAGNA, and FRANK COSTELLO of New York.

Like Licata, Gallo was shelved after a dispute with the Dragnas.

Ciro Gallo was still formally affiliated with San Francisco as a shelved member based in New York, so a representative from the Bonanno Family sought San Francisco boss James Lanza's permission to return Gallo to his previous status and transfer his membership to the Bonanno Family. Lanza granted his approval and the transfer was finalized. Ciro Gallo once again became a member of the Bonanno Family, though the identity of Ciro Gallo's sponsor back into the Bonanno Family is unknown.

One possible connection to active members is through Gallo's old Bushwick neighbor Frank Tartamella, by this time a made member in the Bonanno Family alongside his cousin Sereno, the son of *consigliere* John Tartamella. Both men would become captains under boss Natale Evola in the years after Joe Bonanno was removed from power. Along with being neighbors in Brooklyn decades earlier, both Gallo and Frank Tartamella moved to Long Island. Sereno Tartamella was also living in the same area of Nassau County and a man sharing the name of Ciro Gallo's deported friend Sebastiano Nani died there, noted previously. Frank Tartamella's uncle John was still the Family *consigliere* at this time, a role that should have had direct involvement in the transfer and reinstatement of a shelved member from another Family.

Another possibility is Angelo Caruso, noted for his ties to Marlboro and role facilitating the entry of Sicilian mafia figures into the American mafia environment. Caruso was a senior mediator and *capodecina* by the time Ciro Gallo returned to New York and rejoined the Bonanno Family. A direct relationship between Angelo Caruso and Gallo does not surface in this article though the two men had numerous potential connections.

Nassau County attracted Bonanno members like Ciro Gallo.

Ciro Gallo's *compaesano* Tony Canzoneri was still living in 1957 when Gallo's transfer was requested and approved. Canzoneri was a Bonanno Family *capodecina* according to Bill Bonanno, so if he maintained this position until his death it would have made him a figure of influence. It's blind speculation to suggest Tony Canzoneri was Ciro Gallo's advocate who eased his entry back into the Bonanno Family in 1957, though their backgrounds overlap continually. They shared hometown ties to Palazzo Adriano and can both be linked by blood to the LoBurgio name and the town of Marlboro, Ciro Gallo's brother Joe even living with Tony's father Giorgio Canzoneri for a brief period in 1931 during volatile events in the American mafia.

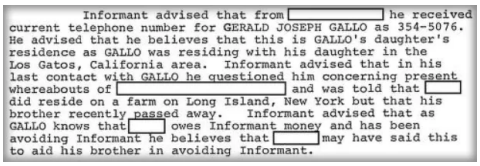
Canzoneri's death in 1959 makes evidence of any ongoing relationship between the two men difficult to document if such a relationship existed. A newspaper editorial following Tony Canzoneri's passing described how Canzoneri died a shell of his former self, serving as a "salaried hand-shaker" at a low-brow Broadway saloon while living alone in a hotel room. Both Canzoneri and Gallo experienced a fall from grace in the 1950s, though Gallo was able to endure and regain his recognition in Cosa Nostra. There is no evidence Tony Canzoneri ever lost formal standing in the mafia, indeed his underworld career is a complete mystery, but both men experienced periods of humility.

Bill Bonanno's photo of his father Joe (L) with Tony Canzoneri (R).

The appearance of two Bonanno members with heritage in Palazzo Adriano hints at a pattern, just as we see with other *compaesani* networks that feed

into specific Families. There is a recurring theme throughout this article of members from Palazzo Adriano in different locations having ties to Trapani or the Bonanno network, be it through marriage, formal mafia affiliation, or association. Even in Sicily we see evidence of these relationships between Palazzo Adriano and Trapani towns. It's not that the towns are a great distance from one another on the relatively small island of Sicily, it's that they manage to sustain these relationships wherever they go. We see this in particular with these men from Palazzo Adriano who involved themselves with Cosa Nostra. Perhaps Ciro Gallo and Tony Canzoneri's eventual Bonanno membership goes back to relationships formed in Sicily.

Despite Ciro Gallo's reinstatement in the Bonanno Family, there is evidence his reputation remained smeared in San Francisco. While cooperating with the FBI in late 1972, Tony Lima reported contact with Ciro's brother Joe Gallo in relation to a redacted name who lived on a Long Island farm. Though this individual's name is hidden, the report indicates the discussion concerned a brother of Joe Gallo who owed Lima money but the San Jose-based Gallo told the former San Francisco boss this brother had recently died. Tony Lima believed Joe Gallo lied about his relative's death and it likely refers to Ciro Gallo who indeed was still alive and would remain among the living for several more years.

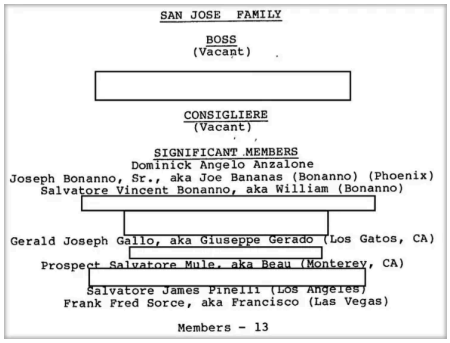


Informant advised that from [redacted] he received current telephone number for GERALD JOSEPH GALLO as 354-5076. He advised that he believes that this is GALLO's daughter's residence as GALLO was residing with his daughter in the Los Gatos, California area. Informant advised that in his last contact with GALLO he questioned him concerning present whereabouts of [redacted] and was told that [redacted] did reside on a farm on Long Island, New York but that his brother recently passed away. Informant advised that as GALLO knows that [redacted] owes Informant money and has been avoiding Informant he believes that [redacted] may have said this to aid his brother in avoiding Informant.

Ciro Gallo may have owed Lima money prior to his natural death.

Early Bonanno boss Nicolo Schiro has come up in this discussion, sharing similar Italo-Albanian ancestry with the men from Palazzo Adriano who joined his Family. Benny Gallo of Williamsburg has potential connections to these men through his father's arrival to America with a LoBurgio from Palazzo Adriano, a name connected to both Gallo and Canzoneri as well as Marlboro. This might explain the entry of members like Ciro Gallo and Tony Canzoneri into the Bonanno Family despite heritage that places them in closer proximity to Corleone. I couldn't find a single confirmed nor speculative link to Corleonese mafiosi among the Palazzesi nor did their networks overlap in any way during my thorough investigation of these relationships spanning time or place, whereas Trapani and Agrigento were unavoidable and constant. Whether their induction was the direct result of mentorship by men from similar backgrounds or if they were unknowingly following tracks that were laid down before them, we see patterns emerge among Palazzese mafiosi.

There is little evidence Ciro Gallo was an active participant in Bonanno Family politics or activities following his 1957 transfer back into the Family. He went virtually unnoticed but was carried as a Bonanno member in his later years, dying in Naussau County on Long Island in 1975. His brother Geraldo "Joe" remained permanently in the Bay Area and died two years later in 1977. The FBI carried Joe Gallo as a member living in Los Gatos before his death despite the San Jose Family having no apparent leadership. Strangely, another familiar name shows up on a San Jose chart alongside Gallo: Joe Bonanno.


SAN JOSE FAMILY
BOSS
(Vacant)
CONSIGLIERE
(Vacant)
SIGNIFICANT MEMBERS
Dominick Angelo Anzalone
Joseph Bonanno, Sr., aka Joe Bananas (Bonanno) (Phoenix)
Salvatore Vincent Bonanno, aka William (Bonanno)
Gerald Joseph Gallo, aka Giuseppe Gerado (Los Gatos, CA)
Prospect Salvatore Mule, aka Beau (Monterey, CA)
Salvatore James Pinelli (Los Angeles)
Frank Fred Sorce, aka Francisco (Las Vegas)
Members - 13
Bonanno was erroneously listed with Joe Gallo as a San Jose member.

Nothing about Ciro Gallo indicates he was a significant racketeer or devoted to a particular criminal trade, rather he was a journeyman mafioso who came to the United States as an adult, hooked himself in with regional organizations, and survived several controversial episodes, ultimately dying under the same Bonanno banner that represented him when he first arrived to Bushwick over four decades earlier. Gallo witnessed the full volatility of Cosa Nostra as an alleged participant in the murders of John Bazzano from Pittsburgh and his *compaesano* Nick DeJohn of Chicago then faced his own trouble in San Francisco as he navigated the Bonanno Family's national network but he nonetheless managed to die naturally on Long Island.

The story of Ciro Gallo highlights the national connections of early American Cosa Nostra and the way a seemingly minor mafioso can feature in noteworthy events and political processes without being fixed to one location or set of activities. Gallo was surrounded by significant figures yet was little more than a footnote in the history of Cosa Nostra. Footnotes, in my experience, are essential to understanding the mysteries of this organization. This article serves not only to discuss the life and connections of Ciro Gallo, but to describe the mafia environment he entered in 1927 and its surrounding political processes, both violent and mundane. It also explores the mafia connections the town of Palazzo Adriano brought to the early United States, this small village still largely a mystery within the bigger picture of Cosa

Nostra even though members with heritage in this *comune* factored into significant events.

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- Thank you to “Chicago Tony” and Rick Warner for assistance with the Chicago section. I initially drafted a skeleton of Chicago connections that were substantial in their own right but Tony in particular was able to elaborate on these connections and through collaboration and shared analysis he helped provide an even deeper level of substance to the names surrounding DeJohn and Benevento.
- Thank you to Lennert Van’t Riet for providing further leads related to the Gallo brothers and the Bay Area as well as other information that greatly assisted my research.
- Special thanks to Michael DiLeonardo for providing information on Traina, Palmeri, and his grandfather “Mr. Jimmy”.
- Thanks to James Barber, Cavita, LCN Bios, Ed Valin, and Felice. Also Griffin Orlich and “Chaps” for supplementary FBI files.

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Nick I Feb 13, 2022

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My grandfather, Joe LoBurgio, had an uncle, Calogero LoBurgio who lived near Trinidad, Colorado. My grandfather was from Palazzo Adriano, as was his uncle, but lived in Marion, Illinois (near Johnson City in southern Illinois). As far as I can tell, he is the Calogero mentioned in your article. I’d note that Calogero seemed to be a poor, dry land farmer from the pictures I have of him. Two of his children are deceased and I think there may have been a third.

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